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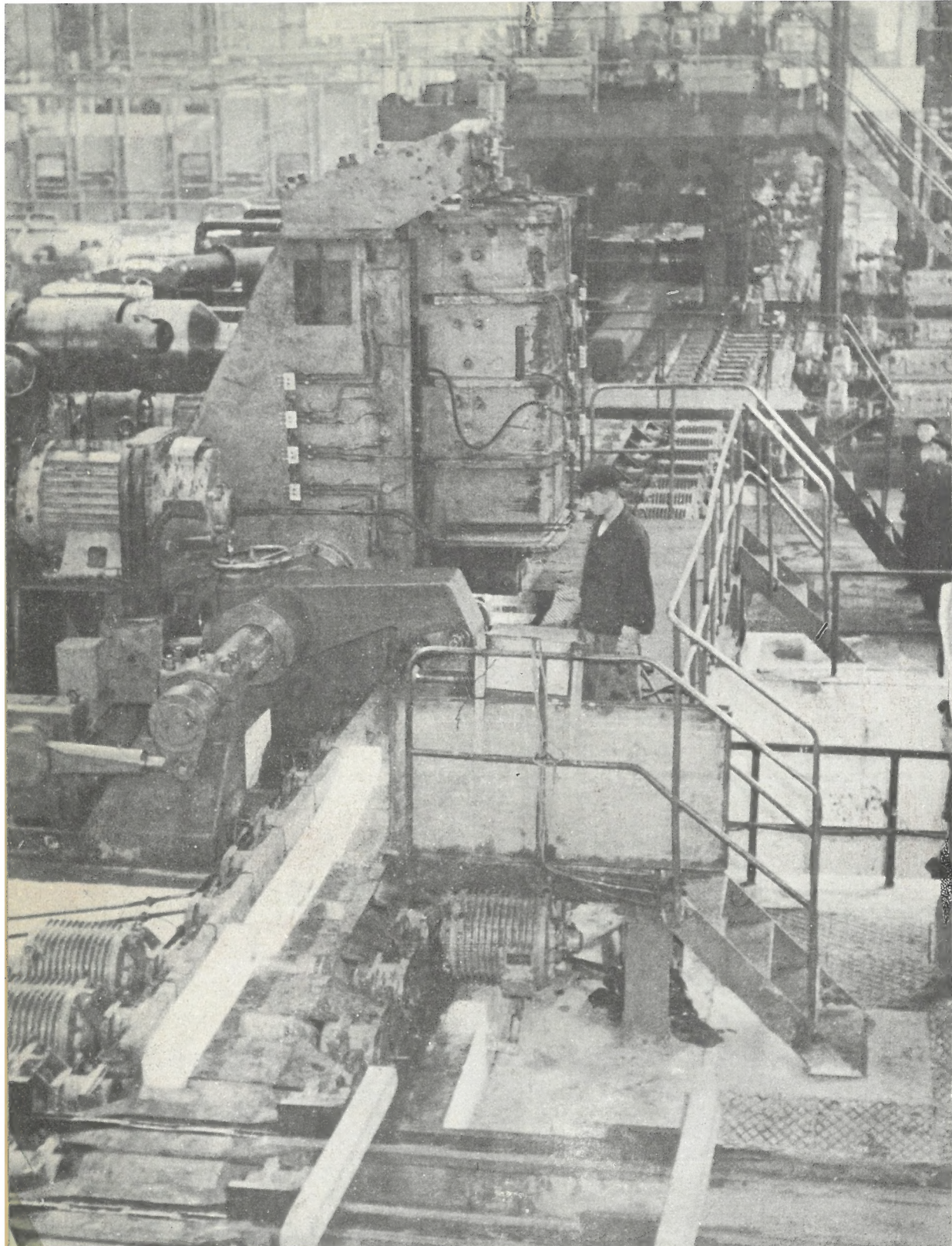
KOREAN REPATRIATES BACK HOME FROM JAPAN

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New Tasks Ahead

American Savagery



The rolling shop, Sungjin Steel Works. It was commissioned on December 27, 1959. The shop with an annual production capacity of 200,000 tons was built with the help of the Soviet Union. It is highly mechanized and automated

KOREA TODAY

No. II (45)

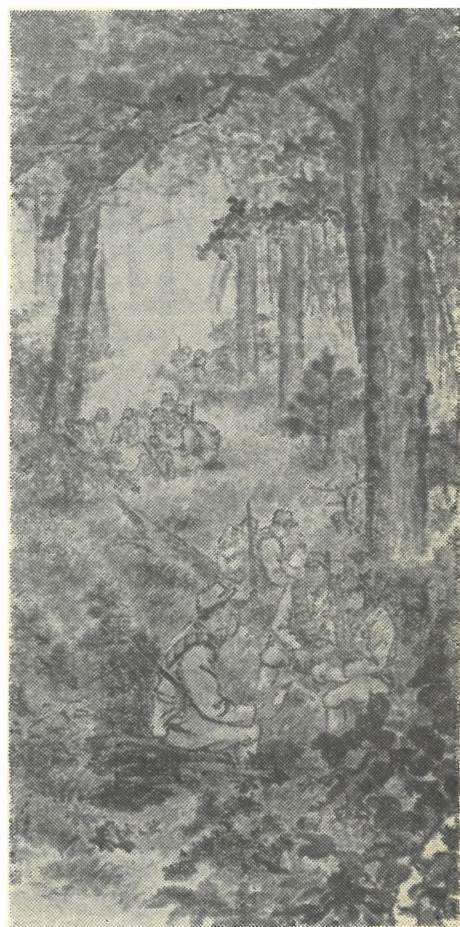
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*"Anti-Japanese Partisans Doing
Their Political Study"*
Korean painting by LI NEUNG
JONG



Premier KIM IL SUNG

Receives Returnees

from Japan

ON DECEMBER 21, last year, Premier Kim Il Sung received some 60 representatives headed by Li Soon Yung of the first group of Korean nationals who had just returned from Japan.

Among those present on the occasion were Comrade Choi Yong Kun, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, and other Party and Government leaders. Also present were the Japanese journalists visiting Korea.

The returnees were excited over and deeply touched by the privilege of meeting personally the beloved leader whom they had always looked up to even in adverse circumstances in an alien land.

Premier Kim Il Sung shook hands with every one of them in warm welcome of their home-coming, and said as follows:

"We must gather at one place and live together. When evil days fell upon us Korean people in the past, we were compelled to live separated. But now that we have the fatherland where the power is in the hands of the people, and where the people are led by the

Party, there is no reason why we should live separated from each other.

"Therefore, it is in the nature of things that our compatriots in Japan wish to return to their dear fatherland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—and that the people at home warmly welcome their home-coming.

"It is the homeland one misses most when he is in a foreign land. The Government of the Republic ardently welcomes the home-coming of overseas compatriots. Our nation is a homogeneous people. We must gather in our homeland and share the sweets and bitters of life. This is the unanimous feeling of the 30 million Korean people."

Premier Kim Il Sung highly appreciated the persistent struggle of the Korean nationals in Japan for their return home and expressed his gratitude to the Japanese people from all walks of life, political parties, social organizations, and journalists for their positive assistance in realizing the return home of our compatriots in Japan.

Referring to the achievements in the social-

1st upbuilding in the country, Comrade Premier said:

"Immediately after the truce, the situation at home was unfavourable. Everything in the country had been reduced to ashes by the U.S. imperialists' bombing. And the enemy had the impudence to say that an early restoration would be impossible.

"However, our working people, rallied firmly around the Party, successfully carried out the post-war Three-Year National Economic Plan and fulfilled the tasks of the First Five-Year Plan in two and a half years.

"As a result, the situation in the country has become quite different. The country's economic foundation has been consolidated and the people's living conditions improved considerably.

"Today, all the people live in comfort without any worry about food and clothing. In our country people know neither exploitation nor oppression. All the people can work freely for both themselves and the state. In order to improve our life, much work has to be done in all fields of the national economy—industry, agriculture, fishing and timber industries, etc. There is neither unemployed nor hungry persons in the country. Unemployment and hunger are alien to socialist countries where the governments guarantee food, clothing and housing to everyone.

"Parents do not have to worry about the education of their children in our country. The compulsory middle school education system has already been effected, and soon the compulsory technical education system will be enforced. All the children are educated free of charge. Stipends are granted to every university student by the government. This year, 15 more institutes of higher learning were newly opened. A great number of houses have already been built, and housing construction keeps going on.

"Throughout the history of four thousand years, the Korean people lived poorly. And during the war, we lived in dug-outs, because almost all the houses were destroyed. But now, there is no one living in a dug-out.

"There is not a single beggar in our country. All the orphans are being brought up in boarding-schools for orphans, schools for bereft children and orphanages, and the old who have no one to depend upon live in the homes for the aged at government expense.

All the sick people receive treatment free of charge.

"According to a recent press report from South Korea, a 38-year-old woman froze to death in Taegu early this winter. Such a tragedy cannot be in North Korea.

"In our country there are no privileged rich, nor the poor. At present, we are producing in large quantities items for daily use of the working people, rather than luxuries. It is a matter of course that when the country's economy develops further, luxuries also will be made.

"It has been less than 15 years since the country's liberation. We took over the backwardness of our ancestors and were under the foreign colonialism for 36 years. So we could not develop economy in the past. Even the economic foundation laid to some degree by the people after liberation was completely destroyed during the three-year long war. Therefore we have to do much more work to live well like others."

Remarking that a new, happy life was awaiting those who had come back home, Comrade Premier went on:

"You will be able to work to your hearts' content according to your talent and ability for socialist construction. You will be guaranteed every freedom as the citizens of the Republic, jobs and all other conditions for making a living. I hope all of you will contribute positively to the socialist construction devoting your all, whether it be learning or physical strength.

"We must build up the mighty and prosperous socialist country with our combined efforts. If we work diligently, we will certainly be able to live well. The successful carrying out of socialist construction in North Korea will accelerate the realization of the country's peaceful unification.

"Let us share sweets and bitters to bring about happy life!"

Dwelling on the terrible situation of South Korea under the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rheeites' fascist rule, he said:

"There are millions of unemployed and peasants on the verge of starvation in South Korea. The Syngman Rheeites are selling the people to foreign countries, on the one hand, and at the same time trying to obstruct by all means the return home of the Korean nationals in Japan to the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea. They are running amuck, instead of receiving the overseas compatriots in sad lots, to spoil the future of those who want to come back home in search of the means of living. What does such conduct mean?

"Some people say it is for the sake of 'propaganda' that we are receiving our compatriots from Japan. That is wrong.

"It is quite natural that the overseas compatriots living scattered in different countries wish to come back home to live together with their brethren. The overseas compatriots have the right to return home and it is the duty of the people at home to receive them. This is not 'propaganda' but love toward the compatriots."

Greatly inspired by Comrade Premier's cordial, stirring remarks, those representatives of the returnees were radiant with hope and firm purpose. Referring to the hard life of the Korean nationals in Japan, they said that all the Korean nationals there are always proud and full of hope even in grim circumstances because of the consciousness of having their fatherland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, led by the Workers' Party of Korea.

They, in the name of the entire Korean nationals in Japan, expressed deep gratitude to the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic headed by Comrade Kim Il Sung which have always extended a warm helping hand of compatriotic love and made consistent, sincere efforts for the realization of their desire for returning home.

They also conveyed the impatient feelings of the Korean nationals still in Japan, who

are longing for the day when they will come home.

They spoke in an indignant tone about the atrocious, shameless plots of the Syngman Rheeites attempting to obstruct the realization of the return home of the Korean nationals in Japan.

The returnees expressed with one voice their firm resolve to constantly learn from the people and exert themselves to the best of their ability for the country's peaceful unification and socialist construction in the North.

When they expressed again their gratitude to the Government for the education fund for their children which was sent more than once even in the difficult days of post-war reconstruction, Premier replied that the Korean nationals there are deeply concerned about the education of their children and that the Japanese people's assistance made it possible to convey the money to them. He assured them that the Government of the Republic will continue to send the fund for the education of children of the compatriots remaining in Japan.

After the talks with the returned compatriots, Comrade Premier shook hands with every one of the Japanese journalists present on the occasion, and expressed thanks for the positive assistance of the Japanese people, public figures from all walks of life and journalists.

Expressing his hope that they would always write the truth for the development of the friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries and for peace, he wished them success in their work.



New Tasks Ahead

HAN DAI YUNG

THE KOREAN PEOPLE now find themselves in the historical transition period when, having successfully accomplished the First Five-Year Plan and scaled one peak in the building of socialism, they make preparations for ascending another peak of higher altitude — the Second Five-Year Plan which will mark a decisive period in socialist construction.

The Enlarged Plenum of the Party Central Committee held in December 1959 discussed the programme to be carried out in 1960 in the struggle for economic upbuilding and outlined the central tasks in the development of the national economy in 1960.

The year 1960 is set as an adjusting period from the necessity of further consolidating the achievements attained in the carrying out of the First Five-Year Plan, further strengthening the foundations of socialist economy in the northern part of the country by speeding up the socialist industrialization and reinforcing the technical equipment in all fields of the national economy during the Second Five-Year Plan period, and of further improving the material and cultural standards of the people.

During the First Five-Year Plan period, the Korean people, displaying a high degree of revolutionary zeal, achieved an unprecedentedly high rate of development, and made a qualitative advancement in socialist construction.

During this period, the socialist relations of production triumphed completely in the North and the country was transformed into a socialist industrial-agricultural country with the foundations of self-supporting economy.

We have put an end to the colonial onesi-

dedness in our industry, built a solid foundation for industrialization and laid a firm basis for accomplishing at an early date the technical revolution.

Total output in state and co-operative industries in 1959 was 6.1 times that in the pre-war year of 1949.

In our co-operativized countryside, irrigation has been completed in the main, decisive success has been made in electrification and the material foundations for accelerating the mechanization of farming has been laid.

The epochal achievements made in the technical reform of agriculture constitute the decisive condition for markedly increasing agricultural production.

The great victory of the Korean people won in fulfilling the First Five-Year Plan is attributable to the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea which creatively applies the fundamental principles of the revolutionary theory of the invincible Marxism-Leninism to the concrete situation of our country.

The economic policy of our Party which was pursued in conformity with the general line of the post-war economic upbuilding — priority growth of heavy industry along with the simultaneous development of light industry and agriculture — and the Party's wise guidance constitute the decisive guarantee for the Korean people's victory.

Embarking on the First Five-Year Plan, we adopted important measures for firmly ensuring planned development of the national economy. With socialist ownership of means of production ruling supreme in our towns and countryside and production in all branches of the national economy growing in scope, there arose the objective necessity of

more firmly ensuring the planned development of the national economy.

While further strengthening its systematic guidance over the development of economy, the Party has regulated in good time the balance between all branches of the national economy which are developing at an unprecedentedly high rate, with a view to smoothly ensuring the solution of the political and economic tasks confronting it, and ensured the rational correlation between the different branches.

During the First Five-Year Plan period, rational correlation between the production of means of production and that of consumer goods was firmly maintained. And, under the condition in which the socialist transformation of the economic forms was completed for meeting the demand for developing agriculture in keeping with the rapidly advancing industry, technical reform of agriculture was set as the prerequisite for the swift growth of agricultural productive forces, and a great deal of forces were directed to this end. The state rendered enormous assistance to decisively speed up the technical reform of agriculture.

The share of the appropriation for agriculture in the total government investment in capital construction has kept increasing — 5.1 per cent in 1957, 8.7 per cent in 1958 and 10.5 per cent in 1959.

For developing rapidly and in a planned way the national economy and attaining a steep rise in the material and cultural standards of the people, we attach great importance to the effective distribution and use of the national income for the purpose of accumulation and consumption.

With the steady increase of fund accumulation vast capital construction was carried out while the improvement of the living of the working people was ensured by systematically increasing consumption funds.

In 1959, real wages of the factory and office workers exceeded the level set for 1961 under the First Five-Year Plan. Real incomes of peasants have increased remarkably.

Thus, in our country, rational relations have been maintained between the production of means of production and that of consumer goods, between industry and agriculture and between accumulation and consumption, and the balance of the national economy as a whole has been firmly ensured.

Only in this way, could we develop the productive forces at an unprecedentedly high rate.

For the implementation of the First Five-Year Plan, the most important thing was to secure the greatest possible returns on the investments made in capital construction. For accomplishing the planned construction projects and keeping up the high rate of growth in industrial production, it was necessary to properly formulate the line of investment and effectively turn to account materials, funds and labour power.

In pursuance of the economic policy of the Party, we have made enormous achievements in recent years in socialist construction. But in some branches a certain strain has been created in the course of the high-rate development of the national economy.

Now we must bring to efflorescence all the achievements our people have made during the First Five-Year Plan period in all aspects of the people's life so that they can prepare for another battle, with greater revolutionary enthusiasm and even brighter prospects.

Premier Kim Il Sung has said: "We must regroup our forces and make all the necessary preparations for another battle, the Second Five-Year Plan," and "We must grasp with full might the main link in tackling all problems and concentrate our forces on it."

Measures for accomplishing the tasks in the adjusting period of 1960, the transition period from the First Five-Year Plan to the Second, are an example of the creative application of the Marxist-Leninist theory on the planned development of socialist economy to the concrete situation of the country.

The central tasks set for the adjusting period are, the resolutions of December Enlarged Plenum of the Party Central Committee note, "to ease the strain created in some economic branches during the past period, especially in the course of carrying out the 1959 plan, boost the lagging branches and improve further the people's living."

For the successful accomplishment of these central tasks, we will:

First, concentrate forces on the mechanization of farming;

Secondly, direct forces to the further improvement of the people's living; and

Thirdly, increase industrial output through the rise of labour productivity and utility rate of equipment.

Successful accomplishment of these tasks will make it possible to consolidate further the achievements attained in the carrying out of the First Five-Year Plan and give rise to fresh upsurge in socialist construction during the Second Five-Year Plan period.

To accelerate the mechanization of agriculture is the lawful demand arising in the development of our socialist co-operative agriculture and, at the same time, the matured demand arising in the development of the national economy as a whole.

For the rapid development of the agricultural productive forces, we have taken a number of measures. Among them are the measures for supplying in great quantities not only tractors and lorries but also other farm implements of various types to the countryside and for expanding the network of farm machine stations, the stronghold of the technical revolution in the rural areas, and improving their work.

On the basis of the developed productive forces and the achievements scored, it is presented as one of the important tasks in the adjusting period to improve rapidly the people's living by increasing in every way the production of food grain, subsidiary diet and consumer goods and build on a large scale dwelling houses and cultural and welfare establishments for the working people. This will help the working people to understand more thoroughly the superiority of the socialist system and further reinforce their might so as to continuously advance towards the eminence of socialism.

Our watchword in the adjusting period of 1960 is: "Let's produce more without increasing manpower and equipment!" and we shall increase in every way labour productivity in production and construction, combat the practice of wasting labour power and materials, further step up the movement for economization, and reduce the production costs of manufactured goods.

Proceeding from the tasks set for the adjusting period, the December Enlarged Plenum of the Party Central Committee laid down the tasks for each branch of the national economy.

The Plenum stressed that in the field of industry greater forces should be directed to

the manufacture of farm machines, the mining, fishing and chemical fibre industries, while maintaining the Party's basic line of economic upbuilding, and set the targets of increasing in 1960 the total industrial output by 12.5 per cent, of which the central industry by 11.8 per cent and the local industry by 14 per cent. It is planned that in the total industrial output value production of means of production will rise by 15.1 per cent and that of consumer goods by 9.6 per cent. Output of farm machines will grow by 256 per cent and mining industry by more than 31.4 per cent. Output of major products such as electric power, coal, pig iron, granulated iron, steel, rolled metals, structural steel, chemical fertilizers, cement and fabrics and total fish catch will show a marked increase over 1959.

The tasks set for agriculture are, while laying stress on grain production, to expand the production of vegetables, accelerate the progress of stock breeding, and further develop the cultivation of oil-bearing plants and industrial crops, fruit growing and silk raising. It is planned to increase the output of meat to more than 220,000 tons and that of vegetables to more than 2,664,000 tons.

A quarter of the structural steel to be produced in 1960 will be used for the manufacture of farm machines, with a view to speeding up the mechanization of agriculture.

This year our countryside is to be supplied with 4,000 tractors, 3,000 lorries, 15,000 trailing machines, 9,100 machines for leveling the soil, 166,000 weeders, 4,600 harvesters, more than 10,000 thrashers and over 1,000 fodder grinders as well as with hundreds of thousands of farm implements of various types.

For the rapid improvement of the people's living, one of the important tasks set for the adjusting period, it is necessary, first of all, to increase in every way the production of grain, vegetables, meats and other foodstuffs.

To this end, we will raise further the utility rate of land by decisively improving the management of land. We will put under cultivation waste and fallow land, rehabilitate the land damaged by flood, converting it into fertile land and raise the utility rate of non-paddy fields to over 170 per cent.

With a view to radically improving the supply of subsidiary diet for the population,

we will decisively develop the fisheries by undertaking various forms of fishing and culture of sea weeds and shell-fish in shallow waters and fish breeding in both fresh and salt water, develop stock farming by properly combining collective breeding with the sideline stock raising by individual co-op members and bring about a radical turn in the production of animal products and, particularly, raise on a large scale pigs and rabbits.

For the rapid improvement of the people's living, in light industry, we will create firm raw material bases, successfully ensure the production of fabrics by effectively utilizing carded cotton and staple fibres and extensively mobilizing various kinds of hemps and fibres from wild plants and, at the same time, increase the output of knitted goods such as underwear and hosiery, and high grade fabrics.

Local industries will produce in larger quantities the foodstuffs which are in great demand by the working people by making use of all locally obtainable raw materials—vegetables, marine products, meats and other farm produce; manufacture in greater volumes divergent consumer goods; and decisively improve the quality of the products.

In 1960, total turnover of retail commodities will rise more than 10.4 per cent (in comparable prices) over the previous year,

while the supply of major products will increase as follows: vegetables 2.1 times that in 1959, meats 2.1 times, marine products by 64 per cent, fabrics by 10 per cent, hosiery 1.9 times, and underwear more than 1.4 times.

Supply of radio sets, sewing machines and articles for cultural use will also increase markedly.

Especially, to solve satisfactorily the housing problem of the working people, in 1960 modern houses for over 81,500 families will be built in towns and workers' districts, while the government investment in capital construction will be concentrated on the mechanization of agriculture, fishing, chemical fibre and mining industries, and on the construction of dwelling houses, schools, hospitals, social service and cultural establishments and on the upkeep and repair of the existing establishments.

In 1960, more than twice as many dwelling houses will be built with government funds as in 1959, 3.5 times as many schools, 3.6 times as many hospitals and 8 times as many theatres, cinemas and clubs.

The kindergartens and nurseries to be built in towns and workers' districts will have a total accommodating capacity of 25,000 and 23,000 respectively, and more bath houses, laundries and restaurants will be built.

Cultural Exchange between Korea and Japan

On January 1, Korean writers and artists and visiting Japanese journalists held a symposium.

Present from the Korean side were writers Han Sul Ya, Li Book Myung, Pak Pal Yang, Pak Woong Kul, People's Artists Hwang Chul, Choi Seung Heui, Merited Artists Moon Ye Bong, Kim Kwan Bo, Wang Soo Bok, etc.

Japanese journalists present were, Ikuo Sakamoto of the *Sankei*, Sinichi Okimitsu and Tokuro Irie of the *Asahi*, Hirolo Murata of the Kyodo News Agency, Hideo Akimoto and Kenzo Simamoto of the *Yomiuri*, Ichiro Simizu of the *Mainichi*, and critics Uda Fujisima and Kunio Maruyama.

They drank toasts to the cultural exchange between Korea and Japan and to the friendship of the peoples of the two countries.

The literature and arts of Korea and the promotion of cultural exchange between Korea and Japan were the main subject of their conversation.

The Japanese journalists expressed high appreciation of the ideological content and artistic value of Korean literature and arts. Referring particularly to the high artistic value of the music and dance drama "Glorious Is Our Fatherland," the drama "Brothers," etc., they asked what it was that enabled the Korean artists to create such magnificent

works. They were acquainted with the fact that the correct literary and art policy and constant care of the Party were at the root of such remarkable artistic creation.

Expressing his gratitude for the help rendered by the people and many public organizations of Japan in the return home of the Korean citizens in Japan, writer Han Sul Ya said he was confident that if the intellectuals of the two countries made common efforts to realize cultural exchange between the two countries, it would certainly be realized.

The conversation proceeded in an amicable atmosphere from beginning to end.

In the adjusting period of 1960, which intervenes between the First and the Second Five-Year Plans, the Korean people will prepare a powerful springboard from which they can make another big leap forward in the building of socialism.

The working people of our country are fully determined to devote all their wisdom and talent to the ultimate victory of the revolution, in response to the Party's call.

The Party has particularly emphasized that the strengthening of communist education among the working people and the improvement of management ability of the leading personnel in the economic establishments are of great importance for successfully accomplishing the tasks set for the adjusting period, and set it as an important task for the leading personnel of economic establishments to acquire sufficient knowledge of the laws of the development of society and the economic management, and master the Marxist-Leninist method of work.

These measures taken by the Party assume great importance for further strengthening the leading forces capable of managing affairs well when the national economy is steadily growing in scope and advancing at a rapid rate.

Especially, the main link in the regrouping of forces and the fulfilling of the tasks for the adjusting period lies in rapidly enhancing the role of the local government bodies as organizers.

Management of agricultural production and local industry is placed under the jurisdiction of the local government bodies. Proper management of local industry factories which in the adjusting period of 1960 will produce 54 per cent of the country's consumer goods assumes decisive significance in accelerating socialist construction.

The Korean people who have brought about a revolutionary upsurge in socialist construction by carrying out the decisions of the December 1956 Enlarged Plenum of the Party Central Committee, are determined to develop the national economy to a higher level by successfully carrying out the tasks set for the adjusting period.



A *Far-Sighted Programme*

SUK IN HAI

OUR forefathers regarded afforestation as something essential in a far-sighted programme. This belief of theirs stemmed from their experience in their actual life.

From olden times, Korea has been famed for its beautiful scenery and lovely landscapes.

Mountains are inseparably linked with the life of the Korean people.

The brilliant history of the anti-Japanese partisan struggle for the restoration of the fatherland was created in the deep forest of Mt. Baikdoo. During the Korean war, Height 1,211 was the scene of heroic battles which won the U.S. imperialist the title of "paper tiger."

A Korean saying has it: "Exploit mountains, and you'll find things good for you!"

From our mountains, most of which are rich in useful plants and minerals, we can explore immense potentialities for developing the economy and promoting the wellbeing of the people.

Valuable forest products, apart from timber for building, include raw materials for fibres, paper and oils, tusser silk cocoons, as well as fruits.

Effective exploitation of mountains better the people's living in the form of food, clothing and housing; regulation of the amount of the headwaters in mountains enables us to prevent drought and flood; and luxuriant trees on mountains serve to beautify the landscapes of the country.

Barren mountains, no matter how high they may be, are of less value than low mountains with thick woods.

Mt. Keumgang with dense forests is unique

and the mountains of the Rangrim Range, covered with thick woods and jasper plants and coralline flowers, which have not known axes for thousands of years, present such a beautiful scenery.

Many poets and writers have sung the praises of the beautiful landscapes of Korea.

Korea was once a country with dense forests. But the Japanese colonialists denuded our mountains, which again suffered much damage during the war launched by the U.S. imperialists.

During the period of the postwar rehabilitation and development of the national economy, afforestation was tirelessly carried out. And the result is enormous indeed.

In the post-war years, we have planted trees on the mountains and fields covering the total area of over 505,000 jungbo. (one jungbo is about one hectare) National timber reserves have considerably increased, although on the average twice as much timber as in the pre-war days has been produced annually.

Yet the demands of the rapidly developing national economy for lumber and industrial raw materials are not properly met. Wild fruits, vegetables, plants for perfume and paints as well as medicinal herbs that grow in mountains are not effectively turned to account.

Hence the necessity of creating timber resources according to a far-sighted plan today when the productive forces are developing at a rapid pace.

The Korean people have launched a nation-wide drive for creating forests of economic value.

There is no reason for us, people who have harnessed rivers for power generation, converted alkaline land in the coastal areas into paddy fields and completed the irrigation of farmland, to leave the potentialities latent in mountains unexplored.

The Party has presented a grand programme of nature remaking: to plant fast-growing trees of high

economic value in the area where the trees of slow growth and little economic value are growing, to cover barren areas, areas where only shrubs are growing or which have a sparse stand of trees, and riversides with trees of economic value and to plant more trees along railways and roads.

Main stress in our drive for enlarging the forests of economic value is laid on creating forests for fibres, paper and oils.

For effectively utilizing the territory as a whole, we are creating forests of economic value in close coordination with the creation of ordinary forests for timber production and reservation forests, and in keeping with the work of doing away with the defects in the composition of trees.

In the period from 1960 to 1965, along with the forests for timber production, 300,000 jungbo of forests for fibres and paper and 200,000 jungbo of forests of oil-bearing plants are to be created. Ten or fifteen years later, these trees will make thick forests. Before long, our towns and villages will be gardens of green.

The U.S. imperialists who are engaged in plunder in South Korea have denuded the mountains. The deforestation by the U.S. colonialists is so reckless that *kullaksai* (a kind of woodpecker), one of the rare birds of the world, has disappeared finding no place to inhabit.

In South Korea, the U.S. colonialists have rendered homeless birds and beasts, not to mention people.

By successfully creating forests of economic value for the further acceleration of socialist construction, we shall heal at an early date the scars of our mountains received at the hands of the enemy. We are all concerned about the nature remaking and are actively working to transform nature.

We are creating forests of economic value as a part of the far-sighted programme of our country.



KOREAN REPATRIATES

BACK HOME FROM JAPAN

AT present Korean nationals are coming back from Japan to their glorious fatherland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Since last December 16 when the first ships carrying Korean repatriates arrived at the Chungjin port, thousands of our compatriots have come back to their beloved country. After undergoing all sorts of hardships in an alien land as homeless people and being subjected to racial discrimination and humiliation, they are now back home, enjoying proud citizenship of the D.P.R.K.

The whole nation has turned out to welcome their brothers and sisters. Everyone is happy to see his fellow countrymen home. Even the mountains and fields of Korea seem to be smiling at them.

The repatriation of our compatriots from Japan is a historic event which will be long remembered by our people. But it may be mentioned here that the settlement of the question of the repatriation was not exactly smooth sailing. It took more than one year to find a solution to the issue, during which time some black-hearted forces did their utmost to thwart the negotiations. But they have fallen a cropper and the desire of the Korean nationals in Japan to return to their homeland has finally come true, thanks to the help rendered by the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K., and to the energetic support and co-operation given by Japan's political parties, public organizations and people from all walks of life to our compatriots in their unyielding fight for coming home. The pressure of the sober-minded peoples the world over was also a factor in facilitating the solution of the issue.

Not only the returnees but also all the people who receive them at home are now proud of their prosperous fatherland, for it was their fatherland that opened up the way for the Koreans to return home from Japan.

Our country is now in an era of brilliant flowering unprecedented in her long history. Our once backward country whose people experienced untold sufferings under the colonial yoke, has now become a prosperous socialist industrial-agricultural state.

Having fulfilled the First Five-Year Plan two and a half years ahead of time, thus occupying a height of socialist construction, our people are now making preparations for fresh advance towards the still higher eminence of the Second Five-Year Plan, which will be of decisive meaning for socialist upbuilding in our country.

The success we have achieved in building socialism constitutes a sure guarantee for providing a stabilized livelihood for our brothers from Japan and other overseas Koreans, when they come home, as well as for the South Korean people groaning under the hoof of U.S. imperialists.

In our country everybody is ensured a job and everybody enjoys a stabilized life. Furthermore educational institutions from primary school up to the university are open to all. In other words anyone who wants to study can receive education in schools of all levels free of tuition.

The Koreans who have come back from Japan have now all been assigned to work places, in accordance with their abilities and wishes: some to scientific and cultural institutions, some to factories and enterprises, others to farms and fisheries, and so forth. The youth and children have all been admitted to schools.

How to secure a job, how to make a living, what to do to get money for school expenses—these are now things of the past for all our brothers who have come home.

Viewed from the standpoint of international laws and humanitarian principles, it is the due right of the Korean nationals in Japan to put an end to their miserable life in an alien land and come back to their glorious fatherland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

That is why Japanese people of different social quarters as well as the honest-minded peoples the world over are rejoicing over the Korean nationals returning to their homeland where a happy life is awaiting them.

But we should not forget that there are also people who are unhappy about their coming back to the

prosperous fatherland. Those people are dead set against our brothers returning home. Agents of Syngman Rhee even went the length of attempting to blow up the Niigata Repatriation Centre, in the hope of not only thwarting the return home of the Koreans but also murdering our compatriots en masse.

Why is it that the Syngman Rhee clique are making desperate efforts to frustrate the repatriation which all the sober-minded people are acclaiming? The traitorous Syngman Rhee clique who, as stooges of U.S. imperialists, have betrayed the national interests of our people, fear that the shocking state of affairs in South Korea will be brought to light before the eyes of the world. But who does not know that the broad masses of the South Korean people are jobless and on the brink of starvation and the children are denied the opportunity of learning.

All that has been brought about by the rule of the Americans and the Syngman Rhee clique during the last 15 years is the devastation of industry and agriculture. The people are left in poverty and ignorance. Social evils are the only thing that is thriving in South Korea where a welter of lawlessness, fraudulency and corruption prevails.

The shocking plight of South Korea whose towns and villages are swarming with jobless people, displaced peasants and waifs and strays, has been exposed by Western journalists. They termed South Korea a "hopeless land."

Under these circumstances, many South Korean people have already fled, and are fleeing, to Japan in order to rid themselves of the misrule of the Americans and the puppet Syngman Rhee regime.

Such being the truth, can it be expected that the Koreans in Japan would choose to go to South Korea?

The Syngman Rhee clique have gone so far as to sell the helpless unemployed and foodless peasants of South Korea to foreign capitalists and plantation owners as life-long slaves, under the pretext of "emigration."

The faith and hope the Korean nationals in Japan have placed in their fatherland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, are representative of the sentiments of the South Korean people who are

groaning under the misgovernment of the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique.

Yet, some Western press and news agencies have engaged themselves in deceiving the public by giving a distorted picture of the truth relating to the repatriation of the Koreans in Japan. On last December 27, the Associated Press of the United States, for example, put on the air the false report that "Communists are making capital of the repatriation programme." The news agency alleged that the returnees were given an "organized welcome" and were afforded "conveniencies alien to ordinary citizens."

The American news agency, which made these false charges, now stands exposed in the eyes of the world as a provocateur and malignant slanderer. The Koreans in Japan keep coming back to North Korea for all the falsified propaganda. This is a choice which can never be challenged. The entire Korean people are happy to welcome their compatriots, with whom they will from now on be able to share all the achievements they have attained. The enthusiastic welcome is an expression of their lofty compatriotic love.

Many of the Japanese pressmen who were then staying in Korea for the coverage of the occasion said that they were moved to tears watching the Korean people welcome their fellow countrymen from Japan. Japanese newspapers and magazines gave truthful pictures of how the Korean people welcomed their brothers and sisters.

And yet, this was an allegedly "organized welcome" to some people with crooked minds. But all the vicious slanders of the mouthpieces of the "free world" are quite powerless before the march of events which can never be stemmed or reversed.

Let the enemies of humanitarianism kick up a fuss about the repatriation of our compatriots in Japan! But all their nasty attempts have already proved that no desired results can be produced.

The coming home of the Koreans in Japan marks another victory for the Korean people, humanitarianism and the unbiased public opinion of the world.

Our nation will finally be united in one family under the glorious flag of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which is now advancing by leaps and bounds along the path of socialism.



D ECEMBER 16, 1959. On this day the port town of Chungjin situated in the north of Korea has been bustling with activity from early in the morning and festive air is prevailing throughout the town.

This port town where in August 1945 the Soviet armed forces landed to bring liberation to the Korean people, is to welcome today the first group of the home-coming Korean nationals from Japan.

Iron and steel workers, textile workers, medical college students and housewives, carrying bouquets and streamers in their hands, are flocking to the wharf.

The weather is biting cold, nevertheless the wharf is packed with huge crowds who have turned out to welcome with warmth of heart their compatriots returning from Japan.

The desire of the Korean nationals in Japan has at last been realized, and they are returning to the dear homeland which they did not forget even for a moment while away in an alien land.

Among the welcoming crowds are those who are waiting for their sons, daughters and brothers.

An elderly man by the name of Rim Choon Hwa has covered some 120 kilometres from Moosan to come to Chungjin. He was separated from his two sons 18 years ago when the Japanese colonialists drafted and took them to Japan.

There is a woman, Pak Soon Ok, who has been waiting for her husband for 21 years, although she has heard nothing from him since he was taken to Japan. She has come along with her father-in-law.

Over 130 reporters, Korean and foreign, are busily moving round to cover the occasion.

More than 10,000 people have gathered on the wharf. The band is striking up music and here and there the crowds have started singing and group dancing.

Flocks of seagulls are circling overhead as if they too wish to share the joy.

Someone among the crowds shouted: "There comes the steamer!" The people stopped singing and dancing and turned their eyes to the horizon on which a black dot had just appeared.

The crowds start cheering and waving flags. Some look at the steamer through field glasses and wave their hands.

The two steamers approach the tumultuous wharf, and the shouts and music grow more uproarious as the figures on the deck become clearly visible.

Men and women on the deck are waving flags and cheering.

At 11:30 and 11:45 a.m., the steamers carrying the first group of the home-coming Korean nationals from Japan, 975 all told, pull into port.

The steamers have anchored, and with Li Il Kyung, Vice-Chairman of the Korean Red Cross Society and the leader of the Korean Red Cross Delegation, at the head, the compatriots from Japan

WELCOME HOME!

disembark amid the roar of cheers.

The welcoming crowds dash towards their compatriots, present them with bouquets, shower confetti upon them, pin flowers on their lapels, and then embrace them.

They are at last in the embrace of the homeland they had so earnestly longed for, the homeland which they had always looked upon as a beacon while on the foreign soil where they had led a grim life.

In the warm embrace of the homeland, the returned Korean nationals feel at ease and are moved to tears.

Responding to the welcoming cheers the returned compatriots shout at the top of their voice "Long live the Workers' Party of Korea!" "Long live Marshal Kim Il Sung!" and "Long live the Democratic People's Republic of Korea!"

Young fellows put the returned compatriots on their shoulders and carry them to the rest-house. Girls help elderly women and children.

At the well-furnished rest-house with an accommodating capacity of over 1,000, the returned compatriots are served with tea, cake and fruits. The people who had been seasick are taken care of by medical men and nurses.

In the rest-house, children and youth are walking about the spacious hall, looking at the portrait of Marshal Kim Il Sung and pictures hanging on the wall.

In another hall, the returned compatriots are reading papers and pictorials.

A group of grown-ups and children, who apparently belong to the same family, are reading with interest pictorials which acquaint them with the city of Pyongyang, the Heungnam Fertilizer Factory and other towns and factories of the homeland.

Here and there in the rest-house, the returned compatriots are surrounded by the people who have come to welcome them.

"We know well you had a difficult life over there in a foreign land," said someone.

"Yes, we did. We had to work hard to earn a bare living. But you fought back the U.S. aggression and have done a great deal to build socialism," said one of the returned Korean nationals.

Then their conversations turn to how much things have changed in their home town.

A young man and a girl vie with each other in inviting to their work places a returned compatriot, a man who has his home in South Korea.

"Come to our steel works. House is ready for your occupancy and job is waiting for you," said the young man.

The girl breaks in and says: "Come to our village. You'll find it a good place, so good that you won't leave it, I'm sure, until the day of country's unification when you go to your home village in Chejoo island. The soil is fertile and we also breed cattle."

The warmth of fraternal love has moved the man to tears, and it seems that he can hardly find words to express his feelings. He only thanks them for their kind invitation.

After a brief welcome meeting at the rest-house, the returned compatriots went to the reception center by buses.

Huge welcoming crowds are lining the street extending some 4 kilometres from the wharf.

Tapes and confetti are showered on the buses, and bouquets are presented to those who are looking out of the windows of the buses.

Builders working on the dwelling houses under construction and crane operators are waving their hands.

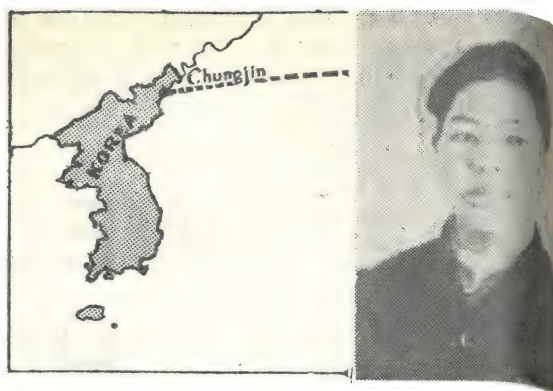
Windows of tall apartments are all open, and children and aged people are waving flags and cheering.

The street is so jammed with welcoming crowds that the buses carrying the returned compatriots are inching their way.

The reception centre is well furnished so the returned compatriots can feel at home, and tasty Korean dishes are served.

The returned compatriots spent the first evening in the homeland with great pleasure and peace of mind.

To the Korean nationals, who had suffered privations in the foreign land but who are now in the dear homeland, a happy life full of honour is full guaranteed.



NIIGATA—

December 13

THIS is our last night in Japan. Tomorrow we'll be on our homeward journey.

Altogether 975 persons—238 families—are to board the first repatriation ship, and every detail in connection with our home-coming has been completed at the Japanese Red Cross Centre.

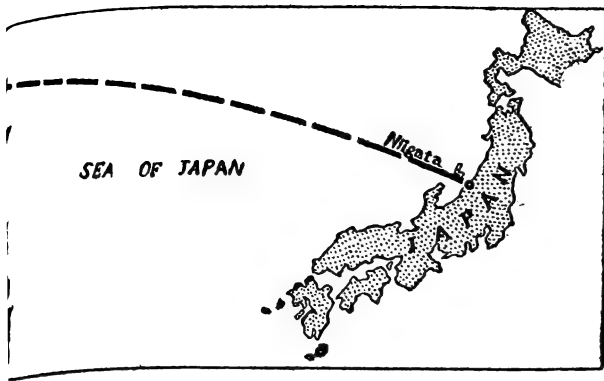
We have just checked on our luggage, so everything is ready for us to board the ship tomorrow. I'm sure we'll get very little sleep tonight.

For us to go home is a big and happy event. Father and mother are going back to Korea after 35 years in Japan. And we have never experienced such joy.

Since we came to Niigata father quite often says: "I just can't believe all this!" His face is heavily lined from the hard life that he has undergone in Japan. But he is wreathed in smiles when he says that.

I must confess we felt almost as if this were the first time we had ever seen father smiling. Father seldom laughed. Even when he did, a flicker of sorrow shadowed his smiles reminding one of his unhappy life. Always our hearts bled for our father.

But now father is smiling. Genuine smiles! Plans for returning-home started when we



CHUNGJIN

HONG CHUNG JA

heard the text of Premier Kim Il Sung's report at the celebration meeting of the 10th Anniversary of the Founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It was broadcast to Japan from Pyongyang Radio Station.

On that occasion Premier spoke on the question of Korean nationals in Japan in the following manner:

"...Our people warmly welcome the aspiration of our compatriots in Japan who, having lost the means of livelihood, are desirous of returning to the embrace of the fatherland. The Korean nationals in Japan, as citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, have the full right to return to their homeland which is prospering and developing with every passing year and to lead a happy life together with compatriots at home. The Government of the Republic will provide the Korean nationals in Japan with all conditions for leading a new life on their return to the homeland. This we regard as our national duty."

Father is getting on in years. He says he is becoming more forgetful. But he surprised us all. How diligently and faithfully he memorized every word of the Premier's speech. He repeated it most solemnly whenever we spoke of returning home. Referring to

the speech he always said that nothing in his life of 60 odd years made his heart warmer than that speech.

For 35 years our father toiled and drudged in Japan. And his reward? The constant menace of hunger. Since all of us—my brother and sister, I am the youngest—are grown up, in ordinary cases father would now be retired. But not in our family, because we're so poor. We tried to discourage him from working as a daily labourer, but there was little choice. He had to keep it up. No one knows how we children hated to see father work like that.

I thought perhaps we could help him enjoy an easy life once we were back home in our country. On the train to Niigata we told him:

"Father, you know what? When we get back to our country you're going to retire!"

He became very serious and said:

"Do you children think I'm going home to have a good time. I've never done a thing for the country. I'm still healthy. Here in Japan I was always looking for odd jobs. Constant poverty is bad, but it is worse when the poor is out of work... Things will be different this time. I shall be working for something else. I'll be working for the country!"

"You children know so well how many people gave their lives for the country during the war. Yes, I'm going to work. I'll do anything. It would not be right for me to go back to the country to be buried. I could not face our compatriots in the country."

We were so glad to hear these words. He made our hearts swell with pride. What father said was a great encouragement to us who are returning home with one hope. We want to devote all our energy for the prosperity of the fatherland.

We—my sister, brother and myself—were born and raised in Japan. We have never seen our dear homeland Korea. How much we longed for her! The excitement of going-home is most overwhelming. That's why I was so eager to tell the Japanese Red Cross representative:

"I'm going to my fatherland that I've always longed for."

The Japanese Red Cross man too smilingly nodded in agreement.

A broad segment of Japanese population supported and congratulated our going-home. Even a new street-name appeared in Niigata in honour of this happy event. The street was named Budeunamoo (willow sreet—Korea has many willows).

At the Japanese Red Cross Centre, at the city hall, and on the piers—everywhere—touching scenes of pledging friendship between Korea and Japan were to be seen.

At the Niigata City Hall this afternoon under the auspices of the Japan-Korea Society, Society for Aiding the Korean Repatriation and Committee of Niigata Prefecture for Sending-off Korean Repatriates, a meeting was held to send us off. This was followed by a presentation of art programme given by Korean and Japanese artists.

Then there was a meeting for the home-going Korean school children given by the Japanese Teachers Union, Prefecture Teachers Union, and the Committee for Sending off Repatriates. These meetings will remain in our hearts forever.

Particularly, the words of Miss Yoko Yamaguchi who spoke at the meeting of the Korean school children and the Friendship Album she presented to us inspired us further to work for the friendship between the peace-loving Japanese people and the Koreans. She said, "On this happy occasion of going home, let us build a bridge of hearts over the rough waters of the Sea of Japan for the promotion of cultural and economic exchange."

At the same time I can hardly suppress indignation at the obstacles laid by the members of the Korean National Residents Association and the Patriotic Party of Great Japan. Why did they attempt to hinder us from going to our own country?

They made a big demonstration in front of the Japanese Red Cross Centre. They came in cars with loudspeakers. Handbills were thrown at us. Their loudspeakers blared. "Dear compatriots, please think once more!"

What they wanted was for us to change our minds about going home. Then their pockets will be stuffed with "reward!" But no one, not a single soul, even paused to listen to the shameful utterances of those who had no shred of national conscience.

The day before yesterday, members of the Korean National Residents Association attempted to stage a sit-down strike near the Okakanogawa Bridge between Ogikawa and Kameda on the Sinetsu line to block the passage of the trains carrying the Korean nationals going back home. Such low-down behaviour only invited public condemnation and ridicule.

It is raining outside. As I listen to the sound of the gentle rain, somehow all the past comes back to me.

I managed to finish high school. But I couldn't go any further. I could not afford it and then there was discrimination. Everyone around contemptuously called me "Chosen-jin" "Chosen-jin" (Korean). Thinking back once more of my girlhood I recall how unhappy I was.

Grammar school was as high as my elder sister went. Even that, she told me, she wanted to quit all

together because her classmates were so mean to her. After grammar school she worked as a nurse-maid and next as a billiards room attendant. I worked in a factory when I finished high school.

It was no life at all. Sometimes I wished that father hadn't come to Japan. But I'm about to put a period to this unhappy life I have had.

But it would be wrong to record that our days in Japan were nothing but sorrow.

As our fatherland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—prospered, and as the democratic forces in Japan led by its working class grew, the people looked at us differently. Particularly after the question of repatriation of Korean nationals in Japan came to the fore, so many Japanese friends came forward to help us. My heart warms when I think of the friendship of these people.

I'm so grateful to our country for its boundless concern for us. It provided ships for us. We were given necessary funds for travelling. Once we are home, we will be guaranteed jobs and a stabilized life. And the children will get an education.

When we welcomed the repatriation ships on the 11th, I shed tears of joy. And when Mr. Li Il Kyung, Vice-Chairman of the Korean Red Cross Society, appeared on the deck of S.S. Tobolsk we all felt the warm hands of our dear land extended to us.

Then, what happened today? Mr. Li Il Kyung came around to see every room at the repatriation centre. He said:

"I'd like to talk to you all day. But this we'll do on the boat or when we get home... In the mean time take good care of yourselves and the children!"

How kind and considerate he was, we all felt. We were simply overwhelmed. I have pledged in my heart that when I reach the fatherland I'll work with heart and soul for socialist construction. And I shall remember this date always.

December 14

HOW anxiously did we wait for today! This is the day for our returning Koreans to board the first repatriation ship.

When we came up the gangway of S.S. Krilion our hearts swelled with joy. At last sixteen long months since we had decided to go home, we are on our homeward journey!

A little after 2:00 p.m. our boat slowly began to clear the Port of Niigata. On the pier crowds of Koreans and Niigata citizens gave us a warm send-off.

As soon as I got on the boat, I realized right away how thorough the concern of the fatherland towards us was. For the newly weds there were special cabins for privacy. Comfortable rooms for the aged and sick. For big families large cabins were allocated so

that the family can enjoy a pleasant trip. Even in assigning the cabins attention was given to every detail to make the crossing of the Sea of Japan—known as a rough sea—more comfortable. We too were given a very comfortable room in consideration of our father and mother who are rather elderly.

The ships moved out of the port escorted by Japanese patrol ships and airplanes.

Our boats took a steady course of northwestwards to Chungjin.

I stood on the deck watching the landscape of Japan disappearing over the horizon. Though it was not my own country I could not help sensing a feeling of sadness. After all I was born and raised there.

Farewell to Japan!

Goodbye, all my friends in Japan!

I'll come to see you when the democratic forces of your country become strong and diplomatic relations is established. I'll come to see you. Until that date let us fight hand in hand for peace and democracy.

Father was telling about his crossing of the Korean straits when I came back to our cabin.

"...Then I was thrown into a dimly lit third-class cabin. I had done nothing wrong, but everyone looked down on me. They scorned me, labelling me as a daily-labourer-going-to-Japan, and a Korean. I had very little money with me since I was going to find a job in Japan. So I hardly ate anything until I reached Osaka."

Father continued. He said the cabin we were in was as good as the first-class cabin of the boat he had taken 35 years ago. Not only that, a cabin was assigned for our family and people had come all the way from Korea to welcome and to take good care of us!

His feelings are, I'm sure, most profound. He thinks and sees things from a different angle. Of course, this wasn't the first time that the father had spoken of his past. But this time more than any other time it impressed us deeply.

I must record here father's reminiscences:

Father was born in a middle peasant family in Kwangsuk, Ronsan County, South Choongchung Province. That is the southern part of Korea. When he was a child the Japanese authorities conducted a land survey in Korea. It was done to take away land from the Korean peasants. My father's family fell a victim of this land survey. The family was reduced to tenant farmers.

Around the time of the First World War Japanese capitalism was having a wartime boom. However, there was a labour shortage in Japan and labour was sought in Korea. Gradually one tale after another of someone making so much money in Japan reached us. Such tales eventually reached the village where my

father's folks were.

He left his home when he was 23 years old. Until he was 28, he did all sorts of odd jobs, wandering around every province of the South. One time he worked in a kitchen of a hotel. Then he carried water for others. Eventually he became a daily labourer, breaking his back in hard work. But all he got out of it was hunger.

At last he figured that farming was the best. He decided to return to his native village. And to earn train fare he did not even eat for three or four days. Father used to tell us that we would not believe his stories as they sounded so fantastic!

He was a good but helpless young man of an oppressed colonial people.

Once back in his native village, he worked hard helping his father—my grandfather. But in the spring they ran out of provisions so he became a hired-hand of a neighbouring landowner, later a labourer at the construction site of a public works.

Misfortunes never come singly. That was the case with father. The best land—I should say the land he had worked so hard to make most fertile—was taken away from him. The landowner revoked the tenancy. Life for father became unbearable. In the end he coaxed grandfather into letting him go to Japan.

Though he had been married only a short time, he went to Japan alone, promising that when he settled down he would send for mother. Of course, there was not a single soul he knew in Japan.

He arrived in Japan right after the great earthquake in the Kanto district. There was the tragic massacre of the Koreans in Japan. Jobs were scarcely to be had. He had no way of knowing then that the Korean massacre was organized by the ruling circles of Japan to divert the brunt of attack by the working class to an anti-foreigners movement while they imported cheap labour from Korea. And the working conditions were very bad.

In Osaka, then in Yamanashi Prefecture, he worked, as most Korean labourers did, in reclamation work. His work was a sort of wandering labourer. He never liked the work, he could never get to used to it. Moreover, he could see little future in it. I'm sure father was not without dreams. But he did not know that under capitalism workers, particularly workers of a colonial land, had no future and they were only used by the capitalists.

At this time he chanced to meet a Korean from his native village, through whom he got a job at the cotton mill in the city of Nishinomiya.

His job was attending the fire. And he worked hard. As his life improved a little he sent for mother. It was in Nishinomiya that I was born. My father worked at the cotton mill for more than 20 years.

But I know too well father stayed in Japan 30 many years not because he liked it over there.

As a matter of fact, father planned to return to Korea right after the August 15 liberation in 1945. We were waiting for the boat to pick us up. Then news of South Korea reached us and father said that our home-coming would wait until reunification of the country.

It wasn't only father who came to such conclusion. As a matter of fact, every Korean in Japan came to know that going back to South Korea—most of Koreans in Japan came from South Korea—was as foolhardy as to put his neck in the noose. Since August 15, 1945, many South Koreans have crossed to Japan. There was no earthly reason for the Koreans in Japan to throw themselves into a living hell.

In our group there is a South Korean young man by the name of Ha, who smuggled into Japan the year before last year. He was only 16 years old then. Like him even the children and aged in South Korea venture to cross the Korean straits in a 3-5 ton boat.

Many friends of father's asked him why he had chosen North Korea and not South Korea, his native place. He always answered:

"In Japan I have worked in one factory for more than 20 years. After the Second World War I was a scrap-iron collector. But things did not turn out well, so I became a daily labourer.

"But, picture for yourself how things are in South Korea. I hear there are some 6,600,000 unemployed and semi-unemployed over there. So people are coming to Japan from South Korea, not from here to there! Things are pretty hard in Japan, but it's worse in South Korea.

"But in North Korea there isn't a single person who is out of job. The farmers are well off, better than middle peasants. Then the educational system! It's splendid!

"As you know me, I'm not a learned person. But I know that North Korea is a people's country. That's why I'm going there. Premier Kim Il Sung said he'd welcome us. And I'm determined to do anything, even hammering nails, for the country before I die."

Such words spoken by father so often made me think. Ever since the August 15 liberation, I have felt inferior complex at being a Korean. I felt small and hesitant.

Besides father, people connected with the General Federation of Korean Residents in Japan talked a lot about the fatherland and the pride one should feel as its citizen. But somehow I could not grasp the real meaning of their words. Nor could I form a true picture of the country.

But things were different with me when I started to learn about my country after our return-home was decided. In my veins, I realized, Korean blood—the blood of my people—was running.

Particularly, the past several days have brought a radical change in my thinking. In short, I have sensed in every way the true solicitude of the country and the pride of being a citizen of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Though I am a Korean, I do not know its language as well as I should. Neither I nor my family have ever done a thing for the country. If I work hard one or two years in my country, I too will become a proud citizen. I must.

At this moment, I've only one wish. I want to get to my country even one minute sooner.

December 16

IT is my first sailing and the sea is very rough. I have been awfully sea-sick so I could not write in my diary yesterday.

On the boat I've become acquainted with many people. Talking to them I learned that each and every one of them had had a bitter life in the foreign land. Feelings were sometimes unspoken, for they were too deep for words. After a miserable life we are going back to our home country like a big family taking the boat our country had sent for us.

Yes, these are the people going back to their fatherland to enjoy a happy and stabilized life. They are encouraged by the warm compatriotic love of the Government and the people at home to put an end to their humiliating life of rummaging through dust bins everyday.

The old people are returning with an ardent wish to serve the country as long as they live. Youth and students are coming home ahead of their parents to study in the institutes of higher learning and devote themselves to the country's socialist construction. They may have been in Japan, but their hearts were always in the dear homeland.

Now our boats are approaching the shores of our fatherland.

I noticed there are many Japanese women among us.

Particularly, the Japanese woman from Fukushima attracted my attention. She has three children. She is coming to Korea before her husband! Just think of it! Isn't this a true case of trusting people? To her Korea is an alien land. But I'm sure she does not feel that way. After all she is coming to the fatherland of her husband and her children.

Besides her, there are Hayashi Katsuko from Niigata Prefecture, Yamanaka Suzuko, the wife of scientist Cho Hyun Tai, to name a few. At any rate, it warms my heart to see these Japanese women com-

Unforgettable Impression

KENRO SIMAMOTO

Journalist of the "Yomiuri," Japan

December 20, 1959. I will never forget that fine day. Not a cloud was in the sky.

Huge crowds of 150,000 people lined both sides of People's Army and Stalin Streets from the Pyongyang Station plaza to the reception centre.

I never dreamt of such a heart-warming welcome given to less than one thousand homecomers by large numbers of citizens who came out to greet them with coloured tapes and bouquets in defiance of the cold wind.

No sooner had the train pulled into the station than the returnees jumped down onto the platform where they were embraced by Pyongyang citizens. A sea of peo-

ple. Then came endless shouts of *manse* (long live). When I saw this touching scene I was moved to tears.

It has been said that journalists should take a calm attitude toward matters in any case. But how can one see such scene without emotion?

I have actively advocated the repatriation of the Korean nationals in Japan and worked for its reali-

zation.

Sometimes I criticized the Japanese government and Japanese Red Cross Society for delaying the solution of the repatriation problem.

Sometimes I was asked whether I was a Korean, at times I was suspected of being an agent of the General Federation of Korean Residents in Japan. But I was undaunted.

I had always argued that the



The Japanese journalists on their arrival at the Pyongyang airport. The first person from left is the author of this article

ing with their husbands. They are as jolly as if they were coming home after a visit with their parents.

What made these Japanese women come to Korea? I'm sure they are coming here because of their love for their husbands and their trust in them and attraction of the fatherland of their husbands and children—the socialist fatherland. Do you think I imagine this way because I see things in a favourable light?

I'm more than sure the people back home will receive these women most warmly and kindly.

Suddenly, there was much animation on the deck. Must be the land of our dear country has come into sight. Everyone was rushing to the deck. I, too, ran up with father. Yes, far in the distance, the mountains of our land could be seen! Everyone felt the boat was moving very slowly. There was a big crowd on the deck and everyone was talking excitedly.

But father was staring at the approaching land without saying anything. He was engrossed in his own thoughts. He must be thinking of his brothers

and relatives in South Korea. Or he was remembering our grandparents! But I cannot record all the feelings father had at that very moment!

Gradually our boat was making her way into the port. The mountains looked as if they were extending welcoming hands. In the sky were flying flocks of seagulls. Over the waves were heard voices of *manse* (long live!) coming from the pier where one can see crowds of people gathered. Here and there on the boat broke out shouts of *manse*.

I don't recall how and when I disembarked. Wrapped in the waves of excitement I was on the pier among the welcoming crowds. When the boat docked and how I came down the trap I don't remember. Suddenly someone pinned a bouquet on my lapel. To my dim eyes I saw a girl. Tears of joy were rolling down my cheeks. She took out a handkerchief and wiped off my cheeks! Children were hoisted high on the shoulders of young people to the waiting room. Then young returnees were carried on the shoulders. Leaning on the people the aged were led. A sea-sick grandma was carried on

repatriation of Korean nationals in Japan was a question of humanitarianism and cardinal human rights and now as I watched the returnees who had longed for fatherland being so warmly received by their compatriots in the homeland, I thought to myself, how right I was. I was overwhelmed with emotion.

Noticing that I was a Japanese journalist a repatriate at the reception centre caught me by the arm and said:

"To tell the truth, I was about 20 per cent doubtful about coming to Pyongyang. But when I saw the people giving such a welcome as today my suspicion cleared away and turned into 120 per cent of confidence. I want the compatriots who are still in Japan to know this. Please convey my words to them."

His is not an isolated case. This is probably the feelings of all the repatriates who arrived in Pyongyang today.

And this is what a Japanese woman, wife of a returnee, told me:

"I was isolated from my parents and brothers, because I married a

Korean. No one came to Niigata to see me off.

"Until I arrived in Pyongyang I have had doubts as to whether it was best for me to follow my husband. But now the clouds have been dispelled. It was after receiving enthusiastic welcome that I came first to realize that I would be able to become a good wife of a Korean. I know such welcome was not mere show."

Special attention was directed even to preparing dishes flavoured with less hot pepper for the repatriates, as they were not used to such dishes in Japan. And on the floors of the reception centre were laid mats so that they might rest from the fatigue of the journey. Space is too limited to list here all such instances.

It is incumbent upon us to write those facts and to inform the Japanese people and Korean nationals in Japan. This does not mean we are necessarily limited to Korean repatriation problem in our write-ups.

Together with this I also should like to give wide coverage to the progress the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea is making in its leaping advance at the speed of a winged horse.

Now that boats are plying between Chungjin and Niigata once a week, thereby opening up the way to the establishment of normal relations, we feel it is our duty to give a truthful picture of the realities of Korea.

This, we are convinced, will go a long way forward removing the stumbling blocks between Japan and Korea.

But this is not all. A young man who has just returned home told me:

"I owe it to the warm compatriotic love of the fatherland headed by Marshal Kim Il Sung and to the support of the Japanese people that I have returned home. It is but the first step since I cannot get back to Wolsan, my native place, in South Korea. I will fight for the peaceful unification of the country so that I may get back home at the earliest possible date."

Remembering the words of this young man I will make a fresh start from tomorrow.

somebody's back to the waiting room...

All this was a picture of more than kindness. It was an expression of true kinship.

The waiting room was a symphony hall of laughter and merry sounds. Children were jolly. Some government leaders were also to be seen. But I wouldn't know exactly who they were. Returnees were talking with compatriots just like one family.

Only newspapermen were outstanding from their badges. But we felt that they too were there not because of their profession but to welcome us warmly. Shortly we were taken to the Reception Centre by buses and cars.

The street leading to the Reception Centre was lined with people. All the way—some 5 kilometres, the welcoming crowds waved their hands and flags, shouting words of welcome and *manse*.

During the night, I was told, there had been a heavy snow-fall. But the streets were swept clean.

How can we thank the people of the fatherland? "Thank you!" "Thank you!" I said repeatedly in my heart.

Our family was assigned a room on the third floor of the Reception Centre. They say this five-storey building was erected to welcome us. On the ground floor were located the Reception Centre office, a broadcasting studio, a library, a book store, a shop, a clinic, etc.

The room was a Korean styled one, which was heated comfortably for us. When the curtains were opened, the room was flooded with bright sunshine.

Tears in his eyes, father repeated so many times: "We don't deserve all this!"

Mother was asking Jung Hi, our 11-year-old niece.

"Jung Hi, aren't you glad that you came?"

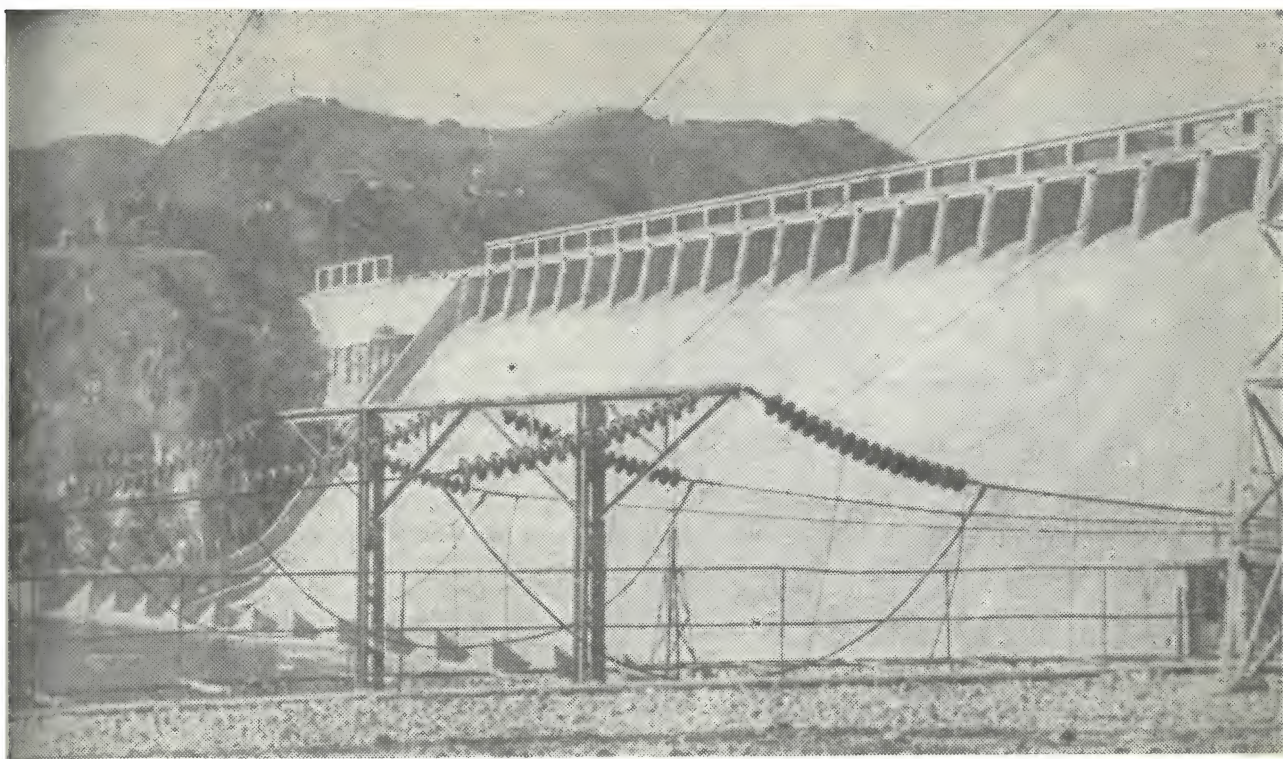
"Are we going to live here?"

"Why, don't you like this room? If you don't you can go back alone."

"Yes, I like here. I want we live here!"

I broke in to say: "Somebody at the Reception Centre told me we would be living in a house like this." I looked around the room once more. What

(Continued on P. 47)



The dam of the Soopoong hydropower station

NORTH PYONGAN PROVINCE

JOO MYUNG DON

NORTH PYONGAN PROVINCE with an area of 12,000 square kilometres lies in the north-western part of Korea.

The northern boundary of the province abuts on the Yalu River which separates the area from north-east China and its western boundary is washed by the water of the Yellow Sea. The north-eastern and south-eastern parts are mountainous with the Kangnam and Rangrim Ranges which are rich in mineral resources such as gold, silver, iron and graphite. The south-western coastal area provides fertile land for the people. There are a number of rivers and lakes, large and small, in the province. The Yellow Sea with over 60 kinds of fish such as gilthead, hair-tail and perch furnishes good fishing grounds for the inhabitants, and many kinds of fish are caught in lakes and rivers.

The province has also numbers of scenic spots such as Mt. Myohyang and Yaksantongdai.

Until liberation, all these natural resources, fertile land and scenic spots were not for the people. It was

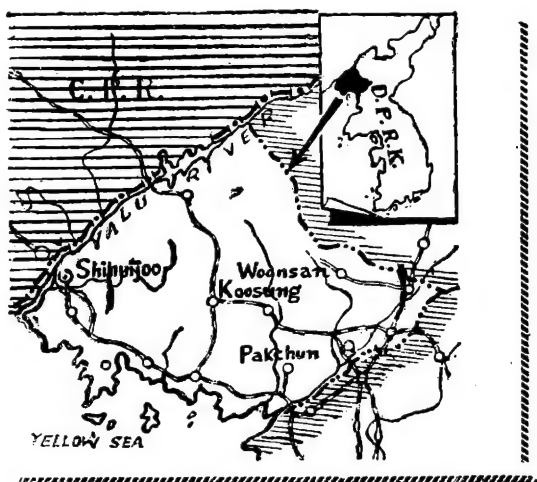
only after liberation that all these were placed under the people's power and began to serve the welfare of the people.

Never before has the province had such a large number of factories and broad irrigation net-work as today. There are 320 factories, large and small, and there is not a single non-irrigated patch in the province.

Before the country's liberation, a few small mines and factories were all that the province had in the way of industry. There was a "machine-building factory," in name only, in Nam-Shinuijoo, producing only iron pots, plowshares and other such things.

The status of peasants in the province was beyond description. The following is what the then *Chosun Ilbo* wrote: "It is simply appalling to see the peasants with swollen bodies, pale faces, and clad in rags."

But today things are quite different. The province has been turned into an industrial center and at the same time a granary of our country.



Along the Yalu

The Yalu, the longest river in Korea, has witnessed many historical events. The mountainous area in the upper reaches of the river was once a revolutionary base of our anti-Japanese partisan units led by Comrade Kim Il Sung, the beloved leader of the Korean people. Dealing blows upon the foreign invaders, our patriots kept fighting the enemy, throwing a ray of hope for the country's liberation over the entire Korean people in those dark days of the Japanese rule. And this river has been a link of the friendship between the Korean people and the Chinese people.

With the country's liberation, the river began to serve the people and socialism as a source of hydroelectric power.

In the middle reaches of the river there stands the big Soopoong Hydropower Station, a center of power

industry in our country. Originally this was built by the Japanese zaibatsu, but there is all the difference between that original one and the present.

During the Fatherland Liberation War this power station was badly damaged by the U.S. bombing. The dam and apron were destroyed. Generators were burnt out. But, rebuilt in a short span of time after the war, the power station is now like new.

Now it has seven generators, each of which has an annual capacity of 100,000 kw, all the work in the station being automated. The recently reinforced dam and apron will stand any flood.

Besides this giant, there are many power stations, large and small, on its tributaries.

The river is also playing an important role in transport. Timber produced at the upper reaches of the river is conveyed by rafts and passenger boats ply the river.

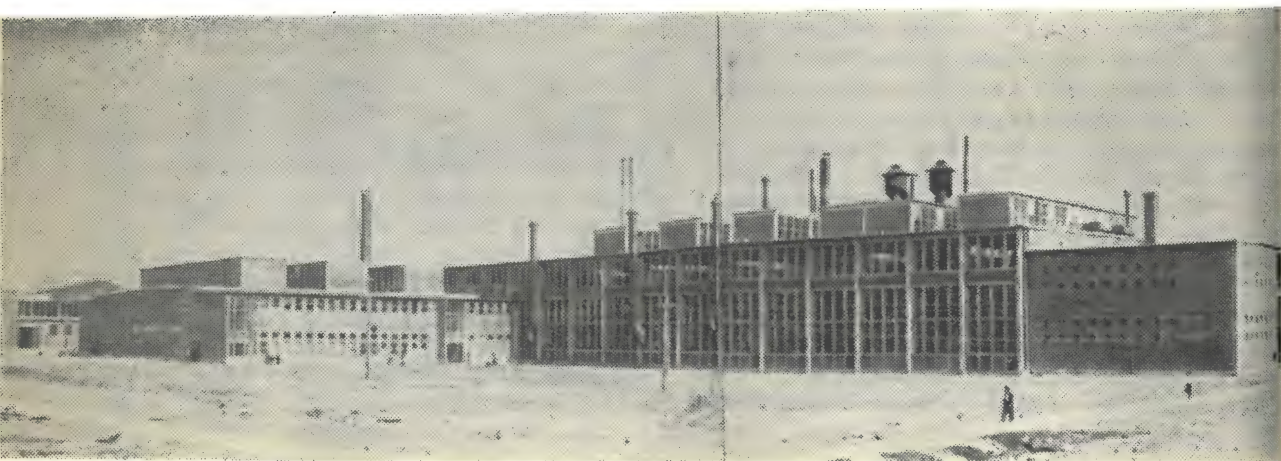
Near the mouth of the river there are islands such as Shindo and Tasado where reeds grow in abundance. These reeds will be turned into fabrics in future at the Shinuijoo Textile Combinat now under construction. The annual weaving capacity of the combinat will be 60 million metres.

Today, the city of Shinuijoo is a powerful center of light industry in Korea. There are not only the textile mill but also a pulp and paper mill and factories producing various kinds of daily necessities.

Light industry factories have also been built in Nyungbyun, Bakchun, Koosung and other towns in the province. All these factories are, though they seem to be scattered, closely connected with each other.

The cotton produced in the province goes to the Koosung Textile Mill which produces 10 million metres of fabrics annually where it is turned into fabrics, and these fabrics are made into clothes at the Shinuijoo Clothing Factory.

A view of the Koosung Machine-tool Factory



In Nyungbyun and Bakchun which are renowned silkworm-raising districts, some 20 varieties of silk such as figured satin, yaksandan, hobakdan, etc., are woven by the skilful women of the districts. The demand for the silk produced in these districts is increasing at foreign markets.

Even in Changsung, a remote mountain village, a textile mill, food processing factory, paper mill, and farm implement factory have been established.

Today, in the province, every county has 9 factories on an average. And these factories are producing some 3,000 kinds of daily necessities and foodstuffs. The gross light industrial output of the province in 1959 grew 4.6-fold that in 1949.

Not only light industry but also heavy industry, especially machine-building, of the province holds an important place in Korea.

In the past, there was no machine-building factory to speak of, except a small one with only a few time-worn lathes in Shinuijoo mentioned above.

But today, there are a number of large-scale, modern machine-building factories in the province. The Rakwon Machine-building Factory which is located near Shinuijoo is one of them. This factory is turning out large and small pumps in quantities including 42-inch centrifugal pumps. The pumps produced at the factory are used for irrigation everywhere in the country.

You must not come to the hasty conclusion that this factory is producing pumps only. Besides pumps it turns out turret cranes which are to be seen at so many building sites throughout the country. In addition to these, the factory began in autumn of 1958 the mass-production of excavators.

There is another machine-building factory, the Bookjoong Machine-building Factory, which is located about 8 kilometres away to south-west of Rakwon.

This factory began to produce bulldozers, crushers, and other heavy machines in 1958. Today this factory is turning out more than 20 kinds of products.

Machine-building factories have been newly erected in Koosung, Woonсан and Koojang, too. In the past, these were merely remote mountain areas.

The Koosung Mining Machine-building Factory has been built in the suburbs of Koosung, an out-of-the-way place in the past. It is producing drilling machines, crushers, ball-mills and others. A machine-tool factory with a capacity of turning out 1,000 machine-tools annually has also been newly built on the outskirts of the town. The Koosung Textile Mill, one of the biggest in Korea, which, with underground workshops, never ceased production during the war time, also is in this town. After the war, the mill has been enlarged.



Shinuijoo Textile Combinat under construction

A few years ago, a vein of copper ore with a deposit of 10 million tons was discovered in the Dukhyun district near Koosung. An ore-dressing shop with an annual capacity of 1,000 tons is now under construction.

There are also mines of gold, silver, graphite and iron in Daiyoodong, Woonсан, Chulsan and Shinyun.

It is well known that gold was taken away by the French, British and American capitalists and then by the Japanese capitalists in the pre-liberation days.

Agriculture Mechanized

With vast plains such as the Yangsu and Boora Plains in the coastal area and the Dukil and Woonjun Plains which stretch along the Chungchun River, no small portion of the population in the province are engaged in agriculture.

In the past, almost all the land belonged to a handful of landlords. But today all this fertile land is owned by the tillers. The peasants are striving to raise the utility rate of the land. They have built 52 reservoirs and 532 pumping stations, and many river-dyke projects, in 1959 alone. With the completion of these irrigation projects, a vast area of farm land was newly put under irrigation, the acreage of which is 1.4 times greater than that attained by the Japanese during the 36 years of their rule.

Thanks to such nature remaking the whole arable land has been completely protected from drought and flood. On the island of Hwangchopyung where there

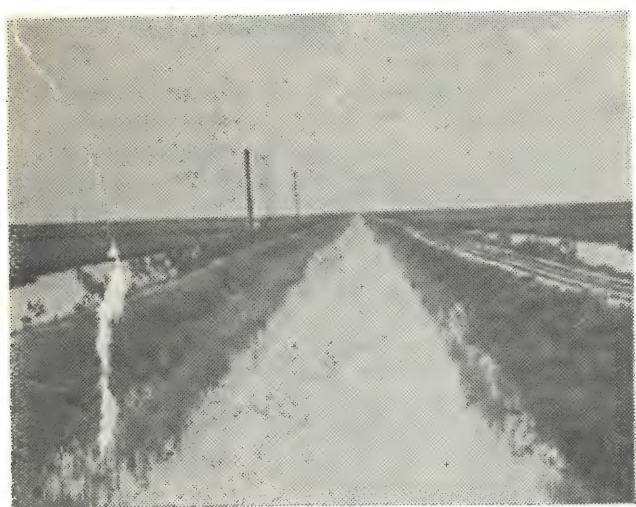
was nothing but reeds in the past, the peasants harvested 7.8 tons of grain from each jungbo of land on an average in 1959. This is by no means accidental.

It was in 1958 that the entire peasant households joined the agricultural co-ops in the province. And they have been making constant efforts to raise more grain by introducing advanced farming methods and more machines.

In the pre-liberation days, according to the data of



The Yalu River, an important source for the hydro-electric development, also provides a good resort for the working people



the Japanese rulers, only one homi (a small hoe for weeding) was available for each peasant household. But today the number of tractors in the province is 1.6 for each agricultural co-op. About 40 per cent of the arable land is ploughed by tractors. Within one or two years, over 85 per cent of field work will be done by machines. And every rural village has electricity.

In the hilly districts such as Chungsung, Uijoo and Pihyun, the residents raise sheep, milch cows and other domestic animals. And the lakes and rivers which are to be found everywhere in the province provide fishing grounds for the people. Whitebait in the lower reaches of the Yalu River and the carp in the Chungchun River are special products of the province. The fish catch of the province in the Yellow Sea and rivers and lakes has doubled compared with the pre-liberation days.

Improvement of Living

It has not been so long since the truce, but no war scar can be seen anywhere in the province.

There is a miners' village in the deep mountains in Koojang County, where the Ryongdeung Coal Mine is located. Houses of the village in this out-of-the-way place are all tile-roofed stone buildings which the miners of the past could not even dream of. The life of every miner's family in this well-furnished house is comfortable. The living standards of the peasants are also very high.

Today, unlike in the past, the workers and peasants are provided with every opportunity to learn. And the number of middle schools in 1959, after the enforcement of the compulsory middle school education, was 3.1-fold that in 1949, and the number of senior middle schools and higher technical schools grew 2.1-fold during the same period.

In preparation for the enforcement of the compulsory technical education system, over 90 technical schools have already been built in the province.

There is no village without at least one clinic at which the people receive treatment free of charge. And nurseries and kindergartens are to be found everywhere in the province



← *Irrigation canals crisscross the boundless Hwangchopyong plain*

KOREAN REPATRIATES BACK HOME FROM JAPAN





"Look, the homeland is in sight!
(On board the S.S. Krilion)

How they longed
for home!
How they dreamed
of the day when
they could return
to their fatherland

Our brothers have arrived! Shouts
of *Manse* shake heaven and earth
(At the Chungjin port)

Returnees are
carried picka-
back to the
rest house



Centre:
Youngsters
find pictorials
of the father-
land most in-
teresting
(In the library
of the rest
house)



Below right:
The aged
receiving
special care



Below left:
Money is giv-
en them for
immediate use







Reunion of a father and sons



Returnees go sightseeing in the city of Pyongyang



Premier Kim Il Sung and other Party and Government leaders receiving the representatives of the second group of the returned compatriots from Japan

The family of Choi Won Sun, which returned from the city of Koga, Ibaragi Prefecture, Japan, is housed in a new well-furnished apartment



Below right:

This is his first morning to go to work. He has been given a post at the Pyongyang Precision Machine Factory



Below left:

Mother is happy to see all of her children off to school: the eldest son Jung Ryong to Kim Chaik Polytechnical Institute; the eldest daughter Yung Ja to the Conservatoire; the second son Yung Sa to the Oisung Senior Middle School; the second daughter Sung Ja and the third son Jung Soo to the Dongheung Primary School





Premier Kim Il Sung visited homes of the repatriates from Japan. The Premier at Li Jung Chil's, who returned home from Nagata-ku, Kobe City, on the first repatriation ship

Premier Kim Il Sung Visits Homes of Repatriates from Japan

ON DECEMBER 29 Premier Kim Il Sung called on families of the returned compatriots from Japan who have begun a new life in Pyongyang.

Premier Kim Il Sung called on Li Ryong Am who lives in a newly built five-storied apartment house in Kyokoo-dong, Oisung District.

Li Ryong Am, a former student of Waseda University in Tokyo, had been admitted to Kim Chaik Polytechnical Institute, and his wife Yang Yung Im, a former student of Showa Pharmaceutical College in Tokyo, to the Pyongyang Medical Institute.

This young couple was given not only a full opportunity for continuing their study in higher educational establishments according to their wishes, but also given a well-furnished apartment house to lead a happy new life.

The apartment consists of a kitchen, a bath, a lavatory and two dwelling-rooms, and is heated

with steam.

The table-wares were neatly put in the dresser and there was a bin full of rice.

In the rooms there were wardrobes and tables. Framed pictures of landscape were hanging on the walls.

All these had been done by the neighbours to please their returned compatriots as much as they could.

When Premier Kim Il Sung entered the apartment, neighbouring women were assisting Mrs. Yang Yung Im in the household affairs.

Praising the neighbours for their giving help to the returnees, the Premier said that it was very good to take care of the returnees and render an active assistance to them until they got accustomed to everything. Then he thoroughly inspected rooms and kitchen, and asked the housewife how she felt.

about the new life.

Her face was beaming with the joy of seeing the dear leader in her own house, whom she had been so anxious to meet while in the far-off alien land.

"We have nothing inconvenient. We are extremely happy." After uttering these words she could not continue to speak because she was so deeply moved by the kindness of Premier Kim Il Sung. After a while she said: "We have been admitted to the colleges and have begun studying. We are very grateful for your deep care to us."

Having heard with satisfaction her words, Premier Kim Il Sung said that our social system is splendid where equality of opportunity is ensured and everybody could live happily. He went on to say:

"In our country there are no privileged people who are exceptionally rich, nor the people who wander about without job, food and house like in capitalist countries.

"We want all the people to be well-off.

"Fine apartment houses are built for the working people and good workers are provided with better dwellings.

"Today there are neither landlords, capitalists nor good-for-nothings in our country.

"At the same time, there are neither beggars nor hoodlums and swindlers.

"It is impossible to wipe out such things under the capitalist system.

"They can be rooted out only under the socialist system."

Premier Kim Il Sung encouraged Mrs. Yang Yung Im to study hard to become a good pharmacist and do much for the development of public health.

Deeply moved by the Premier's kind words, she said with emotion that she would make herself a good worker.

Then Premier Kim Il Sung visited the family of 63-year-old Li Jung Chil, a returnee from the city of Kobe, Japan.

His two daughters had been given jobs in the Dance Theatre and his two sons and the youngest daughter had been admitted to senior and junior middle schools and a primary school respectively.

When Premier Kim Il Sung reached his home, Mr. and Mrs. Li were chatting with their five children over their new happy life in a well furnished room.

After inspecting the inside of the apartment Premier Kim Il Sung took a seat in the room side by side with the family.

He expressed his deep concern for their life. He asked whether the apartment was not cramped for the family, whether there was not any inconvenience in the household affairs, what jobs the daughters had been assigned to and where were the children's schools.

Deeply moved by the deep care shown for them by the Premier, the family members said joyfully that their life had already settled down in the warm embrace of the fatherland and they were leading such a happy life as could never been imagined in Japan.

He was pleased with the fact that the family was well at ease in their life. Then he asked whether those present were the whole of the family.

When the old host answered that four of his children were in South Korea, the Premier asked if he was not missing them.

Ha Dol Re, the hostess, said that she wished she could see them but she could not meet them as the country is divided by the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique. Then she said that all the family members were firmly resolved to exert themselves to the best of their ability for the earliest realization of the country's unification, so the whole family could come together to one place.

Expressing his sympathy with the misfortune of the family the members of which are separated in the North and the South, the Premier said as follows:

"For the earliest reunion of parents, brothers and sisters who are separated in the North and the South, we must achieve the country's peaceful unification at an early date. In order to attain the peaceful unification quickly, we must build socialism faster and more effectively, and consolidate further the economic foundation of the country.

"Today, Korean nationals could return to their dear fatherland from Japan because we did socialist construction well in the northern half of the Republic. The faster we build socialism, the nearer the day of the peaceful unification will come."

In the course of the conversation the old man said that he had been suffering from high blood pressure for years but could not get any medical treatment in Japan. At this, Premier Kim Il Sung suggested that he should either go to hot springs or hospital, having his disease treated with effective medicine. Then he continued:

"In the capitalist society it is impossible for the poor to receive medical treatment, but in our country medical service is free.

"Parents do not have to worry about the education of their children in our country. The students are educated at the expense of the state, and they can study at their ease."

While listening to the kind words of Premier Kim Il Sung, the faces of Li Jung Chil and his family members were beaming with joy.

All day long an atmosphere of rejoicing reigned over the families which were visited by Comrade

Premier that day.

When the reporter asked Mrs. Yang Yung Im of her impressions of Premier's visit, she replied:

"It is really like a dream that Premier Kim Il Sung should have come to my house. When the Premier appeared at the door of my home I still could not

believe it. It is unthinkable in Japan that the Premier of a state should visit the homes of rank-and-file folks." Saying that she would never forget the honour of the day to the end of her life, she expressed her firm determination to give herself, body and soul, to socialist construction in the country.

PYONGYANG WELCOMES RETURNEES

On December 20 last year the first group of repatriates from Japan arrived in Pyongyang.

That day an atmosphere of festivity reigned over the streets of Pyongyang. Workers, builders, office employees, students and housewives who had been looking forward to the day lined the streets, carrying streamers, bouquets and flags, to welcome their brothers and sisters.

The compound of the Pyongyang Railway Station, the plaza in front of the station and both sides of the route from the station to the reception centre were thronged with Pyongyang citizens, numbering more than 150 thousands. It was indeed a rolling sea of bouquets and flags.

The train pulled into the station bedecked with flags and coloured tapes amid rousing cheers of people. Shouts of "Long live Marshal Kim Il Sung!" "Long live the Workers' Party of Korea!" and "Long live the Democratic People's Republic of Korea!" shook the compound.

Touching scenes were soon to be seen here and there on the platform.

Li Jong Hyuk, third-form student of Kim Il Sung University, picked out his grey-haired father from among the returnees. Too overwhelmed by the excitement of meeting each other after such a long separation to find words to express their emotion, they only cried the words "father" and "son," and then burst into tears, throwing them-

selves into each other's arms.

All the people were embracing each other, not only father and son, mother and daughter, but also those meeting for the first time.

Amid enthusiastic cheers and shouts of "Long live Marshal Kim Il Sung!" the returnees were led to the plaza in front of the station. Some were carried pick-a-back, others walked hand in hand with welcomers. On the plaza the returnees got into 30 buses and

made for the reception centre via the People's Army Street. The street was lined with Pyongyang citizens who turned out to welcome them. The buses were showered with confetti and had to break tens of thousands of strips of tapes on the way.

It took more than two hours for the buses to get from the station to the reception centre, a distance of less than 2 kilometres. Pyongyang, ever prosperous capital of socialist Korea, met with parental love the repatriates who had so long experienced a bitter life in Japan.

Korean Literary Men and Artists from Japan

On the evening of January 6, a public meeting was held at the State Art Theatre, Pyongyang, in honour of Korean writers and artists who returned home from Japan.

Among those present at the meeting were leading personnel of the Party, government bodies and social organizations, literary men, artists and journalists.

On behalf of the writers, composers, artists and actors, Li Book Myung, Vice-Chairman of the Writers' Union of Korea, Kim Ok Sung, Vice-Chairman of the Composers' Union of Korea, Kil Jin Sup, Vice-Chairman of the Artists' Union of Korea, and Moon Ye Bong, a Merited Artist, made welcoming addresses. Welcoming the Ko-

rean literary men and artists from Japan, they unanimously laid stress on uniting efforts to develop Korea's national culture.

On behalf of the returned literary men and artists, Yoon Do Yung, an artist, made a speech in reply.

He expressed heartfelt thanks to the Workers' Party of Korea and Marshal Kim Il Sung for having enabled the Korean citizens in Japan to come back home. And he expressed his determination to do his bit for the construction of the socialist culture by displaying his talent and efforts.

The meeting was followed by recitation of a poem by the poet Pak Pal Yang and then by an art performance.

WHAT THEY FEEL BACK AT HOME

In response to the request of *Korea Today*, Korean nationals who recently returned home from Japan have written their impressions and wishes.

Below we publish some of the articles contributed by them.

A New Life

LI TAI WOO

December 27, 1959, will remain for me as an unforgettable day. That day I returned to my dear homeland. I am now working at the Kangsun Steel Works.

To get a job and rent a house was the most pressing question for me in Japan. I was born in Japan and lived there for 34 years. After graduating from the Metallurgical Department, Engineering Faculty of Osaka University, I continued my study of metallurgy for two years in the Hashiguchi Research Institute, Engineering Faculty of Tokyo University. All of my Japanese classmates got jobs at first-class steel works, but I was refused everywhere. Why? It was because of my Korean nationality.

To drag on a miserable existence I had to run a cheap eating house, carrying dishes and bottles. Then I tried my hand at tailoring with a single sewing machine. Sorrow, contempt, humiliation and poverty

were my lot in Japan. Those years of miserable life made me choke with bitterness.

Yes, I have led such a miserable life for scores of years. But for my homeland, but for her helping hand extended to me, what would I have become? I would have become, in all probability, proprietor of a cheap eating house, or a prisoner in an alien land.

My fatherland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, encouraged me gripped by poverty and misfortunes, and filled me with the pride of being a citizen of an independent country. When our repatriation became possible, I was overwhelmed with joy at the thought of bidding farewell to my life of hardships. At that time I declared to myself, "I will go home where there are such huge factories as the Kangsun and Sungjin Steel Works. And there I will work with heart and soul."

Now I am working at the Kangsun Steel Works. My dream has been realized at long last.

How happy I was when I was first introduced to Han Moon Bum, chief of production section of the works, who encouraged me, saying, "We are glad to have you work with us." My heart swelled with joy at the thought that I, who had once bowed a hundred times in vain before the Japanese capitalists to get a job, have become a worthy

engineer in my fatherland. Particularly, I am to work with the famous Chullima work team members led by Jin Eung Won. While in Japan, how I had longed to work at this huge steel works standing on the bank of the majestically flowing Taidong River. I am determined to devote my all to this factory which is producing various kinds of steel products.

My cosy and modern two-room flat is located at a distance of some 200 metres from the factory. Each room is well furnished. Beside household utensils, my wife found even one and a half bags of rice and red beans in the kitchen. At first my wife was dumbfounded, saying, "Didn't we come to the wrong house?" But later a girl visited us and said, "We hope you like your new home," and from her we were told that all these things were provided for us by our kind neighbours.

That night we could not sleep for thinking about the kindness of our neighbours. Before our coming to the homeland, we were unable to dream of such comfortable house. While in Japan, particularly in Osaka and Tokyo, we had to pay half of our salaries for room rent and, as often as not, we were driven out of such a miserable room on the ground that we were Koreans.

Now we are settled in a cosy home, and the miserable life in Japan has become a thing of the past. Moreover, electric light charges, water bills and house-rent, which were so dear in Japan, are



Li Tai Woo

next to nothing here in my fatherland. One day, Ryong Haing, our eldest son, caught a slight cold, but he received prompt medical treatment at a hospital. To our surprise, it cost us nothing. In Japan, the high price of rice is the chief concern of housewives who find it hard to make ends meet. Naturally we could not have regular meals. But here rice is sold at such cheap prices.

Our new life started in the midst of compatriotic love in my mother country. What a wonderful country to live in! The people here are

honest and diligent and they help each other at home or at work places, sharing the sweets and bitters of life.

Embraced in the bosom of the fatherland we are happy, and our hearts beat with excitement at the thought that we will live and work hard in this beautiful land of ours, together with our compatriots.

My wife and I are determined to do our best to answer the profound concern of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic which opened up a new reality for us.

My Honest Choice

JE MYUNG SOO

When I went to Japan I was eighteen. Since then I have gone through the sweets and bitters of life.

While in Japan for thirty years, I never forgot my native land even for a moment. I always thought how nice it would be to return to my home village in the county of Sungjoo, North Kyungsang Province in South Korea, with its rich paddy fields and scenic spots. I longed for my old home and earnestly desired to do some useful work such as cultivating my native soil. But my desire was not to be realized. My native land under the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee rule has been turned into a living hell.

Many times I heard about the woeful plight of the South Korean people who are undergoing a living death. All who fled to Japan from South Korea said, without exception, that if he had to choose between death and being deported to South Korea, a shocking land of poverty and hunger where people are left to the mercy of terrorists of Syngman Rhee clique and the savageries of U.S. soldiers, he would rather destroy himself.

That was why I, like many other people who are from South Korea, chose North Korea. Coming to the

Democratic People's Republic of Korea was my honest choice.

Now after 30 years on foreign soil I am at home in the embrace of my glorious fatherland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, where life is pleasant and enjoyable for everyone.

In receiving us, the people were so kind, words cannot fully express how kind.

Now I have started a new life as a member of the Namchil Agricultural Co-operative in the county of Anjoo, South Pyongan Province. My family is housed in a brand-new modern house, furnished with all necessary furniture and household utensils. When my family first came to the house, we found there rice, firewood, vegetable pickles, and even matches and floormops prepared for us.

Seeing those things, I was deeply moved by the such solicitude as only a mother shows when marrying off her daughter, I could not keep back tears.

On New Year's day my family had a New Year feast, something alien to my family while in Japan. The villagers wished us Happy New Year. Indeed, it was the happiest New Year for our family, in the last thirty years. I was so

happy I had to pinch myself to see if it might not be just a dream.

Yes, it was real. My daughter Suk Nam has now been admitted to the technical school and our granddaughter Kyung Ja is going to kindergarten. Need I say I could never think of sending my children to a kindergarten or to a higher technical school in Japan?

The mere thought of the miserable life I led in Japan now gives me the shivers. But, what is the good of calling back all the bitter memories of the past? But now I am home and I feel young again. The wrinkles seem to have smoothed out from my forehead.

Now that I am in the embrace of the motherland, I need not worry about anything. Only I have to work, I have to work for the country.

One day I called on the chairman of the co-operative and asked him to assign me to some work. But he said, smiling as usual:

"You have to rest first, until you recover from the fatigue of the journey."

Then, he kindly asked me if I found any inconvenience in my home. I could only thank him for his kindness shown towards my family. Then I told him that nothing was further from my thought than to live idly, and that I wanted to do my bit for the country.



Je Myung Soo's family

Since I came to the village, I have seen for myself that there were many, many things to be done in the co-operative. Every co-op member but me was busy.

Besides farm work and animal husbandry, house building was also in progress. New houses are being built for the co-op members, and the co-op's palace of culture is going up. I have had enough rest now, thought I, so it was time for me to work.

But the chairman did not grant my request. I again asked him to allot me to some work, and told him that I could do concrete mixing, for one thing, for house building.

"Well, have a nice rest, and then take your pick of a job," the chairman said, grasping my hand. Then, he asked about how my children and grandchildren were getting along.

When I took my leave of the chairman it was already dark outside. As I was walking along the village road towards my new home, my thought flew to my brother-in-law Pak Jong Dong who is still in Aomori, Japan. How was he getting along now, with his seven children? I knew, of course, that he had been out of job for a long time and he could not afford school expenses for his children. And at this moment when I am home among my own people and my family well cared for he and his children were probably hungry.

I was really sorry for him. All I could do for him now was to wish he would come back home as quickly as possible.

As I approached my house, I could see a soft light shining through the frost-patterned windows, and I could hear the merry laughter of my youngsters within. The sadness which the thought of my brother-in-law in an alien land had caused in my mind, faded away. I stopped at the door and stood there for a long time, though it was bitterly cold outside. I could not some-

how believe that I was the master of this brand-new well-furnished house. No longer shall I be pressed for the house-rent. It was all like a dream for me who had spent nearly all of my life in poverty and distress in a foreign land.

As I groped for the knob of the door, my hand was trembling in

excitement like a schoolboy in his first day at school. It seemed to me, a man who has lived nearly 60 years, that I was opening the door leading to a new life, a new world.

Indeed, young blood is seething within me as a new life opens before me. The springtime of life has thus come back to me.

My Dream Came True

LI RYONG AM



I am writing this article in my cosy flat situated near Pyongyang Station. I can see through the windows tall modern buildings.

It is only a little more than one month since I left Niigata, Japan. But these days filled with deep emotion and excitement will remain with me for the rest of my life. I have come to feel keenly how dear the fatherland is, what is noble humanity and what is worthwhile in life.

The warm atmosphere of the flat contrasting sharply with my old home brings back the bitterness of my life in the past.

My thought flew to the day when I was forced to leave my native city of Taegu in North Kyungsang Province, South Korea, for Japan leaving behind my aged parents, brothers, and friends.

I was then 18 years old. Just like other boys of that age I sometimes drew a rosy picture of my future happiness. But my cherished dreams were nothing but illusion. There was no place to squeeze out a drop of happiness in South Korea which had been turned into a U.S. military base. Beggars and war orphans were tramping the streets in groups. Pale jobless young men sitting in

the streets, people dying of starvation in the streets, or young men being drafted for forced labour or pressganged into the army—this was the South Korean society. It was a living hell where starvation, poverty and non-rights prevailed.

I was then a middle-school boy. Our family could hardly make ends meet. Such being the situation, it was difficult for me to meet tuition and various fees for continuing my education.

My elder brother was also pressganged into the puppet army and a cousin was drafted for forced labour. And I never heard from them after that.

I decided to leave my native place to start on a roving journey. Father and mother had no objection to my leaving.

"We are old, so we will stay. But we don't want you to stay with us," they said with a sigh.

But it was not just to earn a living that I went to Japan. I left home for an alien land with the sole object of getting away from that living hell.

In Tokyo there were some of my relatives and people of our home town. But I could not ask them to

help me because they were also in dire straits, subjected to national contempt with no rights whatever.

But to study was my great ambition. I was admitted into the science and engineering faculty of the Waseda University. But I had to work to get some money for living and school expenses.

Of course, I was not the only one who faced such situation. Most Korean students in Japan were in the same boat. And other Korean nationals in Japan were little better off.

It was quite natural that young intellectuals felt uncertain about their future under such condition. Though they graduated from school they found it difficult to get a job in Japan, because of Korean nationality.

That was why I put up a fight to return to the prospering fatherland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. At last my cherished desire came true. I am now in the bosom of the fatherland.

The distance from Niigata to Chungjin was not so long. This trip meant not only returning to the fatherland, throwing off all humiliation and difficulties in an alien land, but it marked a turning-point in all homecomers' life. We heard in Japan that our compatriots were making a leaping advance in their socialist construction at the speed of a winged horse. We were inspired boundlessly by their great success. I was happy to see through documentaries the fatherland changing into a modern country.

But I must confess I knew very little about the fatherland. In Japan I thought I had gained a pretty good idea of how the building was going on in the homeland and what socialism meant, and I tried to learn about it on every occasion. But from the moment I landed at the Chungjin Port I realized how little I and most of the Koreans in Japan really knew.

What startled me was the fact

that so many new things had been born in my dear homeland. It was beyond all my expectation. In fact, I was simply amazed.

I will never forget the warm-hearted welcome the homecomers were given by tens of thousands of the people in Chungjin who came out to greet us in defiance of the biting cold wind and weather 18 degrees below zero. Never in all my life, had I seen such people expressing the true respect and love toward their compatriots. Simple mind, kindness and friendly feeling prevail in their life.

I am not saying this out of my gratitude for the warm welcome given me. For my part it was a wonderful discovery of the new type of people.

It happened in the first evening after my landing in the homeland at the reception centre in Chungjin. I saw a woman looking after the heating system for our rooms though the night was far advanced. I thought first that she was an employee on duty. I asked her to go back. I thought that she had gone. But, to my surprise, I found her still working at the fire-place when I woke up after a fairly long sleep. "It doesn't matter," she said. "If I take a little trouble many returnees will be able to have a good rest."

Later I learned that she was not a firewoman, but a textile worker engaged at the Chungjin Textile Mill. She was a graduate from senior middle school.

I was told that women workers there had volunteered to take care of the fire at the reception centre so that homecomers might take a good rest. I did not ask her anything more.

I felt rather ashamed that I still looked at things from old viewpoints.

When I was in Japan I not infrequently heard from some Koreans that "though construction was going on on a broad scale in the father-

land it must not be so grand as to amaze the people because it was done by the Korean people, once technically backward, in an extremely short space of time."

Half angry at them for saying such a thing, nevertheless I was rather inclined to agree with them.

But from the very first moment of my arrival in Chungjin I was moved to admiration at the sight of construction going on.

Everything I saw in Chungjin and Pyongyang surpassed all my expectations. I was extremely happy and excited.

Broad avenues such as Stalin and People's Army Streets, and workers' apartments, schools and club houses springing up in East Pyongyang—all these made me doubt as to whether I had come to Pyongyang or to some big city in Europe.

Pyeongyang was devastated during the Korean war. Considering all this, what has been achieved by the people of Pyongyang in rebuilding the city is, indeed, all the more amazing.

And hearing about the great exploits and heroism displayed by the people in the homeland moved me deeply, I felt it a great privilege and honour to be embraced in the warm bosom of the glorious fatherland.

But my heart always turns to the wretched situation of my parents in South Korea who are in dire poverty, still living in a crumbling hut.

At my wish I was allowed to enrol in the third year of the mining department, mining and engineering faculty of the Kim Chaik Polytechnical Institute and my wife, Yang Yung Im, in the second year of the pharmaceutical faculty of the Pyongyang Medical Institute.

We have received a nice two room flat furnished with modern furniture. Even rice, Korean pickle

and other articles of food were stored in the kitchen. Everything was beyond our expectation. We felt no lack of anything.

Truly, it seemed almost unbelievable.

There is no longer any worry about the rent, electric and fuel fees. The heating system is provided at low prices. And this is not all.

One day after moving into the new flat we were visited by Premier Kim Il Sung, our beloved leader, and we had a long talk with him.

Showing interest in even the smallest detail connected with our living, he asked us: "Is there any inconvenience?" "Are the rooms not too small?"

He told us it was our duty to study hard.

For the Premier of a country to make a personal visit to the house of a student would be inconceivable in South Korea or Japan.

Another thing that struck me was that my school director offered me an overcoat, school uniform and even stipend. Teachers give special lecture for me and students do everything possible to help us.

It is quite different from what I had imagined while in Japan.

In fact, before we returned home. I never thought that both my wife and I would be able to study. I thought one of us would have to work to make a living. To tell the truth, this weighed heavily on my mind.

However, now I came to realize that all this worry was useless. The only thing we are now thinking about is how to learn more.

Mankind has dreamt of such a society where all the peoples can lead a happy life and display their talents to the full. The very society is being constructed in the fatherland.

I think there are some Korean nationals in Japan who are worried about their future life in the homeland though they have already

made up their minds to return home.

To these people I can say from my own experiences: Don't view the reality of the fatherland from the old way of thinking. Construction is going on at an amazing speed in the socialist fatherland where happiness blossoms.

While I was writing this article, my wife who was studying beside me said in an excited tone that I

My First Impression of Pyongyang

YOON DO YUNG

After coming back home from Japan, we repatriates of the first group spent a week from last December 20 in Pyongyang.

During our stay in the capital we met our beloved leader Marshal Kim Il Sung. We saw the epic music and dance drama "Glorious Is Our Fatherland" with great interest, and visited the State Central Liberation Struggle Museum, the Fatherland Liberation War Memorial, the Pyongyang Textile Mill, and the Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition. We also saw the classical operas "The Tale of Shim Chung" and "The Tale of Choon Hyang."

Short as our stay was, we became acquainted with many, many inspiring things which we had not known before. Words cannot express what I felt during those seven days.

As a painter, I should like to represent on canvas as best I can what I saw and felt in Pyongyang.

While I was in Japan, I could get informations about the fatherland through various newspapers, magazines and pictorials, and thought I knew something of life in Korea. But what poor knowledge it was! Upon returning home, I found the reality of Korea far beyond my superficial imagination.

should write about all things we have seen. But how can I write about all these moving events!

It is already evening but the city's working day knows no end. Tall cranes with signal lights are busy.

In closing I should like to extend my warm thanks to the Japanese people who spared no efforts for the realization of the Korean repatriation problem.



Going round sightseeing in the capital, I was utterly dazed by the grandeur of the city—wide streets, tall buildings, charmingly-laid-out parks, modern theatres and cinema houses, etc. I could find no trace of war destruction. I was almost unable to bring myself to believe that only a few years ago the place lay utterly demolished in the war.

But my visit to the War Memorial made me fully understand the extent of the dreadful destruction of the war. The exhibits were a graphic illustration of what grim life the people of my country had gone through and how they all fought in defence of their homeland. Thinking of the noble patriotism and heroism my fellow countrymen displayed during the war, I stood motionless for a long time before the historical reminders, struck with admiration tinged with awe.

Now I could clearly see what was behind the speed at which the city of Pyongyang had sprung up on war ruins. It was the patriotism

Rhee's Plot Revealed

— To Blast the Repatriation Centre —

NOW the repatriation of Korean nationals in Japan to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is on in real earnest. It is most warmly welcomed by the entire Korean people and is applauded by the honest-minded people of the world.

But there is a handful of ill-wishers who cannot take it. They are Syngman Rhee and his followers. The dregs of human society with their ringleader Yiu Tai Ha, the so-called Syngman Rhee's ambassador to Japan, attempted to dynamite the repatriation center in Niigata Port. What they wanted was to kill the Koreans who gathered in Niigata to be repatriated to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Luckily the Japanese police uncovered the criminal plot in time, thus saving the lives of our compatriots.

According to the confession made by Cha Jin to the Japanese police, this criminal plot was hatched by the Syngman Rhee's Mission in Japan. Cha Jin was given "an order to blast the repatriation center" by Yiu Tai Ha, the mastermind of the plot. And a third secretary named Kim of the "Mission" helped

lay out the scheme. Cha Jin stated further in his confession to the Japanese police that he was paid one-half million yen for the job.

But this is not all. According to a report of the Pan-Asian Newspaper Alliance, a special intelligence corp composed of 10 landed at the Tachikawa airfield near Tokyo in a U.S. military plane to perform a "special mission." Moreover, they were provided with eight million yen as their working funds by the Syngman Rhee's Mission in Tokyo on December 4, last year.

Another press report says that a Syngman Rhee's naval vessel brought in 40 spies from Chinhae to Kobe in the afternoon of December 7. From Kobe, the report goes on, they were sent away "somewhere" by jeeps. Their mission, too, was to blast the repatriation center and the trains carrying the Korean returnees.

The Syngman Rhee clique hatched these criminal plots to wreck the return home of the Korean nationals from Japan to the D.P.R.K. And it is an open secret that the Syngman Rhee's Mission in Tokyo is the

and heroism inherent in the Korean people that brought into being this beautiful modern city in a matter of 4-5 years.

There was another thing that impressed me profoundly. It was the simple and kind manners of the people. What hospitality they all showed us, and how kind their eyes were when they looked at us in the streets! Some of the citizens we met in the streets, noticing that we were from Japan, grasped our hands, saying with emotion: "Welcome, welcome, how glad we are to see you home!"

I could feel the warmth of their hearts. Everywhere we went they received us as warmly as blood brothers or sisters would do after many years of separation.

How proud I feel that they are

all my fellow countrymen. It was these simple and unassuming people that displayed matchless heroism in beating off the invading Americans. When they told us how they fought and defended the fatherland from the invasion of the Americans and how they built factories, towns and parks after the war, their eyes sparkled and their voices became forceful with resolution.

It happened, fortunately, that two fine arts exhibitions were open while I was in Pyongyang, one oil paintings and the other Korean classical paintings. As a painter, I saw both of them, and for the first time came to see what the arts for the people should be like. I saw excellent touch of realism in the works on display, and came to understand along what line an artist should work.

When I visited the Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, I was surprised at the high technical level and creative inventiveness of the workers and peasants of our country.

Everywhere I could find rich subject-matter for my art—heroic workers, smiling weavers, school-children with sparkling eyes, and so forth. Everywhere there was hope and joy of life.

Now, I have been admitted to the Artists' Union. I, as a beginner, will do my utmost to learn and quickly make myself a good painter capable of portraying in a vivid light what I saw and felt these past days in the bosom of my fatherland. And some day I should like to put out a masterpiece. This is the only way for me to discharge my duty toward my fatherland and people.

brain of the criminal plots. It was none other than Yiu Tai Ha who said that he would do his utmost to hamper the repatriation of Korean nationals in Japan to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. And Syngman Rhee also said that he would fight to the bitter end to bar the Koreans in Japan from going to North Korea.

When the Japanese police uncovered the dynamiting plot, Yiu Tai Ha hurriedly sent back, in secret, his conspirator Kim Yung Hwan to Seoul to conceal his crime. However, it was the same Yiu Tai Ha who admitted inadvertently that his subordinates gave Cha Jin free access to the "Mission." And it was Cha Jin who confessed to the Japanese authorities that he was to dynamite the repatriation center in Niigata.

The Syngman Rheeites decided to shed the blood of more Koreans. And his Mission in Japan, a terrorist agency, was to do the job of killing.

The return home of the Korean nationals from Japan is a matter of heart-warming joy for the Korean people. The entire people in North Korea whole-heartedly welcome the returning compatriots. Every effort and care is taken to make their life comfortable. All the people who treasure humanitarianism share

the Korean people's joy. The Japanese people give the returnees a warm send-off.

In its leading article, the *Mainichi Shinbun* sincerely wished the returnees bon voyage. A correspondent of the *Yomiuri* who had visited Korea wrote as follows: "The joy of those who have returned home and the warm welcome the people give them are an expression of compatriotic love."

But the world imperialists share none of this joy. They are pouring out their shopworn tirade. To them, the homecoming of the Korean nationals from Japan is a "propaganda stunt!" They think they are throwing sand in the wheels. But they are burying their heads in the sand. They don't want to see thousands upon thousands of Koreans returning home after so many years of misery in Japan. And the Syngman Rheeites? They want to dynamite the Koreans on their way home!

Why?

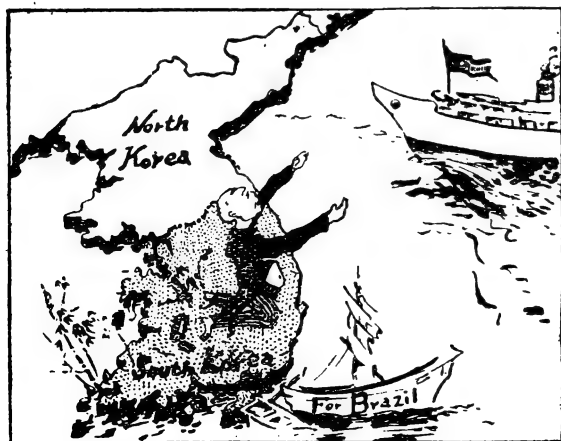
Because, as is widely known, the 15 years of fascist rule by the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique in South Korea has brought nothing but bankruptcy to South Korean industry and agriculture. Poverty, hunger, ignorance reign over South Korea, a land of evil and lawlessness. Millions of jobless people and hundreds of thousands of vagrant orphans are roaming about in search of food. Millions of peasants in the countryside who have run out of provisions are on the verge of starvation. No wonder that even the Western press describes South Korea as a "hopeless living hell." The Syngman Rheeites have gone so far as to sell our unfortunate compatriots in South Korea as lifetime slaves to the plantation owners of far-away countries. To earn foreign currency!

Great numbers of South Korean people are fleeing to Japan, from where Korean nationals are returning to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Can any one blame the Koreans in Japan for refusing to go to South Korea?

Only the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the land of hope for all the Korean people at home and abroad. This is why the Korean nationals in Japan are returning to North Korea. It signifies the victory of socialism and humanitarianism.

But the Syngman Rheeites do not like that! And they want to kill these people. The criminal act of the Syngman Rhee clique must be punished in the name of human conscience and morality.

Syngman Rhee: "Why don't you come to your home town? Come to South Korea, and you shall have a passport to Latin America."



American Savagery



The news of the recent barbarous acts of the American soldiers provoked the whole nation to burning indignation.

The outrages committed this time by the U.S. savages in human guise are a great national insult to the Korean people.

It is only natural for any one to feel offended and humiliated even if a stranger ridicules him. It would be unbearable, therefore, to be insulted and ridiculed by a foreigner, by one who occupies the country and acts like a master in someone else's country. The whole nation would feel indignant.

How are the American beasts behaving in South Korea today?

American soldiers, who strut about in South Korea in a patronizing sort of manner, make no scruple of committing all kinds of savageries by way of pastime—stabbing or fring at people, robbing, raping and so on.

According to press reports from Seoul, on January 2 this year American beasts in uniform stationed in Tongdoochun near Seoul insulted two South Korean women who were passing by, without any provocation. They took the two women into their military compound by force and shaved off all their hair.

Kim Soon Ai, one of the victims, said that she and her friend were walking along the road near the U.S. barracks when suddenly

two American soldiers appeared and blocked their way. Then they took the two women into their barracks. The U.S. barbarians held the women tight with the help of other ruffians, and began cutting the women's hair, first with a scissors, then with a hair clipper. Not content with that, those scoundrels brought an electric razor and shaved off their hair. Altogether ten-odd U.S. army men took part in this criminal act, J.W. McAnery, the company commander, taking the lead.

Outrages by U.S. servicemen do not end here.

According to news dispatch from Seoul, on January 1, the day before the above-mentioned occurrence, U.S. soldiers belonging to another company of the same regiment offered violence without reason to a 21-year-old Korean woman, Kim Hwa Ja by name. They brought by force the woman into their compound and stripped her to the skin, seriously beat the lower part of her body, smeared her body with paint, and then drove her out into the street.

Could there be anything more inhuman and cruel than these acts?

Could a people be more insulted than this?

One of the victims told the press:

"A thing like this should not be done to a human being. The Americans are behaving

like this because they look down on the Korean people."

The American occupiers are driving the people of South Korea like colonial slaves. Otherwise, how could they act like that?

Nothing is more shameful for one, particularly for a woman, than to be naked before the public. And nothing is more shameful for women than to have their heads shaved. They would rather die than lose their hair.

But it is amusing to the American soldiers. They think no more of their unspeakable acts than playing cards or dice.

Worse yet is the fact that the U.S. army authorities in South Korea are openly defending the acts of these soldiers and protecting these devils.

The U.S. Army Headquarters in South Korea made a public statement, saying that it was a reasonable act! Moreover, they say the women were punished with shaving off their hair! Particularly, the superior of the U.S. soldiers commended the soldier as an exemplary company commander, saying that the action was "well-motivated!"

As is expected, it makes little difference if he is a responsible person or a private in the American army. After all, they are all American soldiers who indulge in violence, kidnapping and murder. They are a bunch of devils, the savages of this enlightened 20th century.

The diabolical crimes they are committing



Two Korean women whose heads were shaved off by the Yankee

in South Korea have no parallel in human history.

We know, of course, that ever since the day when they set foot on the soil of Korea, the U.S. army men have committed all conceivable barbarities against our people. For the Korean people, the words "U.S. soldiers" imply violence, robbery, rape, murder, arson, and what not.

During the Korean war, they destroyed our towns and villages, factories and mines, schools and hospitals, killing millions of innocent people of Korea. And now, nearly 7 years after the guns were silenced on the Korean battlefields, the aggressors from across the Pacific are still hanging upon our land, causing all manners of misfortunes and disasters for our people.

In South Korea they are plundering the people on a larger scale than their pirate-forefathers. And they are shedding more blood than they did in killing off the American Indians. Their lynching method is more "improved" in South Korea. Their gangster activities are sweeping every corner of South Korea.

A few years back, a U.S. battalion was mobilized to attack and plunder a village in Pajoo. Last year they again attacked three villages in Keumkok-ri in Pajoo County on the order of a battalion commander. Every house was ransacked.

Near the Kunsan airport, they let their ferocious hounds loose on an old Korean woman who was picking grass nearby. It was good sport to them to watch a helpless woman being bitten by dogs. They picked up a shoe-shine boy in Poopyung. They tarred the boy's head, then put him in a box and nailed the lid down. Later the box was thrown out. Even the thought of their crimes gives one the cold shivers.

Innocent children are used for their target practice. They burnt a whole village because they failed to violate a Korean woman. Then just for the fun of it they stab the passers-by!

In Pusan, some time ago U.S. soldiers hung several Korean dockers head downward on the jib of a crane and dipped their heads in the water. Watching the men struggling in the water, the American barbarians clapped their hands and laughed fiendishly.

In Pyongtaik, three U.S. soldiers belonging to a U.S. Air Force unit raided Korean houses

and attempted to violate women. When they failed to achieve their aim, they set fire to five houses.

All these savagery of U.S. soldiers evoked a storm of indignation among the South Korean public.

Last September in Poopyong a U.S. soldier was beaten up by Korean youths. He wanted to pick a fight. At the Kimpo airport a puppet soldier shot down an American G.I. because he insulted a Korean. In the neighbourhood of the Kimchun railway station, the people staged a demonstration when a Yankee soldier shot a Korean middle school boy. In Pusan, people demonstrated demanding removal of the U.S. pipe-lines.

Such anger and resentment at the U.S. imperialists are mounting still higher because of the recent inhuman crimes committed by the U.S. soldiers against the Korean women. Even South Korean papers condemn the barbarous acts of the U.S. soldiers as "outrageous," and "unspeakable acts."

In its editorial the South Korean daily the *Chosun Ilbo* wrote: "The outrageous acts of U.S. soldiers are inexcusable and we as a sovereign nation cannot tolerate them." Another South Korean daily the *Ryunhap Shinmoon* denounced the acts as the "most heinous ones" and "if such things happened in the United States all the Americans would have rushed to revenge." Even some "ROK national assemblymen" branded the recent behaviour of U.S. soldiers as "barbarous."

Human dignity has been flagrantly violated. And every Korean who has any national conscience strongly denounces the outrage

committed by U.S. soldiers. For the Korean people to suffer humiliation at the hands of the U.S. soldiers—the barbarians of the 20th century—in their land is a disgrace. The Korean people who enjoy a long history and brilliant culture are subjected to every insult and disgrace by the Yankees.

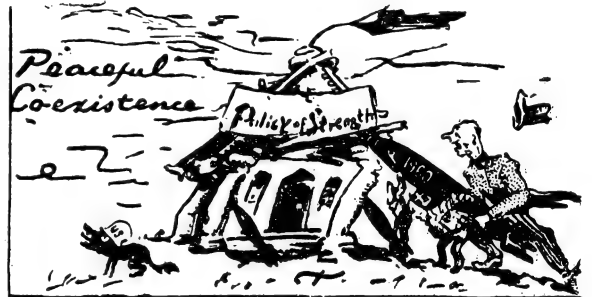
The entire Korean people express their wrath at this enemy. We cannot tolerate his presence in our land.

This is the era of cosmic travel. Yet the Yankees dare commit such barbarity in our land. They cannot escape the judgement of history.

The Korean people do not, and will never, forgive the American savages for the outrages they committed against our women. The Korean people resolutely demand immediate withdrawal of the U.S. aggressive army, the root of all the disasters of the Korean people, and the strict punishment of the U.S. soldiers involved in those criminal acts.

Dog: "Master, the wind is still rising."

Master: "Yea, it seems."



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a pleasant room! Had we ever lived in a house like this?

It was a bright, comfortable room. We're only used to barracks in the slum district in Japan, worn *tadami* (straw mattress) and torn paper windows.

From the window the sky of the fatherland looked brighter than ever. Far in the distance stacks of the iron works were sending out columns of black smoke. Then a host of huge cranes were busy. On this cold day, too, construction was going on as usual.

I said to myself: "Like the vigorous youth of the fatherland who welcomed us, I must become a good daughter of the country."



Jobless man A: "Beautiful moon it is! But what is it to me?"

Jobless man B: "Haven't you had anything to eat today, too?"

Jobless man A: "Damn it, no!"



Syngman Rhee's policeman: "Come on, you rascals! Don't look straight at the moon, I tell you. From September 12, last year on, the moon belongs to the Reds, you see?"

Truth About South Korea

The barbarous atrocities of the U.S. troops in South Korea and the intensifying fascist terrorist rule of the Syngman Rhee clique there are evoking indignation not only among the South Korean people, but also among the overseas compatriots and the world honest-minded people.

In this connection, Li Ryong Kan, Bachelor of Engineering, Boo Sung Kyoo of the Photogra-

phers' Union, Pak Jong Chul of the Pyongyang Electric Appliances Factory, Li Wol Ja of the Pyongyang Textile Mill, Pak Ro Kil of the Pyongyang Precision Instruments Factory, and Pak Nai Sung of the Pyongyang City People's Committee, all recently returned home from Japan, have the following to say about the miserable life in South Korea, which they themselves witnessed or heard from their relatives.

WHAT I SAW IN SOUTH KOREA

LI RYONG KAN

I have experienced three different realities—South Korea which, under U.S. army occupation, has been turned into a U.S. colony, the reality of the capitalist society in Japan and the thriving socialist society of the fatherland.

Unable to find the means of livelihood in South Korea, a living hell, I went to Japan. But the situation there was no better and I only suffered hardships.

From Japan I have recently returned to the fatherland, the bright and happy land.

I have found the reality of the fatherland more vigorous, energetic and full of life than I had imagined.

A man who had only seen things old, narrow and lifeless in Japan where I wished to find the means of livelihood when leaving South Korea, I was surprised to see in the fatherland so many modern industrial enterprises, workers and technicians seething with creative zeal and dashing forward like a winged horse, modern rural villages freed from century-old backwardness, grand cities full of activity, and the brilliant people's art which

produced a grand concert given by 3,000 performers.

This is indeed a great reality from which the people derive their vitality and energy.

Enjoying a happy life in the embrace of the fatherland, I think keenly of my dear, relatives, friends and fellow countrymen who are languishing in the South.

From my personal experience and from the letters I received while in Japan from my relatives and acquaintances, I know to what extent the wretched situation of South Korea has gone.

I had wandered about many places in South Korea looking for the means of living. In South Korea, hungry jobless people and waifs and strays in tatters are to be seen everywhere. Before my eyes floats the miserable picture of these unemployed and orphans begging food and looking for shelter under the eaves of others' houses or under bridges.

While in South Korea, I, too, roamed about the streets selling soap and cigarettes in the hope of earning money for school education.



It was inexpressibly difficult for one to receive school education in South Korea. You need 180,000 hwan for primary school education, more than 250,000 hwan for middle school education and 720,000 hwan for college education. Besides tuition fees, the South Korean puppet regime and school authorities collect a huge sum of money from students in one and another form. The time for admission is therefore called the school authorities' "money harvesting season."

What do the South Korean schools teach students? They have replaced the "moral course" which the Japanese colonialists instituted to make the Koreans "subjects of the Japanese Emperor," or their slaves, with the "course of moral principles" and the "vow of a subject of the Japanese Emperor" with "our vow,"

and preach that the United States is the "country blest by God."

The education in South Korea is thus intended to paralyze national consciousness and sound mentality of the people and instil the idea of obedience to U.S. imperialism.

We cannot tolerate such education which is detrimental to our younger generation.

A few days before my departure for home, I received a letter from my younger brother in South Korea.

The family, my younger brother informed me in the communication, was packing up to leave the home village in search of means of subsistence when a flood came and washed away the hut. He further wrote that a bailiff, accompanied by policemen, came asking pay for fertilizers and the water utilization fee, but there was no way of paying 40,000 hwan which they demanded immediately.

This is the picture of the South Korean rural village today.

In South Korea, rural villages have been the main object of plunder by the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique, who draft manpower, take away from peasants their harvest and collect money

in sundry forms—"land acquisition tax," "redemption grain for the land distributed," water utilization fee, pay for fertilizers and scores of other officially recognized levies as well as farm rent. Practice of usury and high prices have their share in bleeding the peasants white. Thus, the South Korean peasants are subjected to threefold, fourfold exploitation. The peasants are left empty-handed in autumn, as the harvest, the fruit of their back-breaking toil, is taken away. This is common occurrence in South Korea.

Every year several million peasants run out of food around February and March and, barely subsisting on grass roots and tree bark, they leave the dear home village and roam here and there begging food.

The peasants driven by hunger from their villages comprise a greater part of the unemployed in South Korean towns.

One of my friends in South Korea, a man who graduated from the Pusan college, failed to find a job.

He expressed his wish to come to Japan in search of a job and kept asking me in his letters to help him realize his wish.

South Korea is literally flooded with jobless people.

The U.S. imperialists who have made a monopoly of South Korean economy and established their control over all industries, transport and finance, are plundering mineral wealth of South Korea and have driven bankrupt even the insignificant Korean-owned industry by dumping their surplus goods. South Korea is dependent on the U.S. surplus goods, and the medium and small enterprises have either wound up, suspended operation or reduced operation hours.

Such a sorry state of industry and agriculture naturally produces a huge army of unemployed.

Such a miserable, wretched, ruinous situation can never be tolerated.

The U.S. occupationists and the traitorous Syngman Rhee clique must be condemned and judged by the world people loving justice and freedom for having ruined South Korea, created confusion and wretched situation for the South Korean people.

I am determined to devote my whole talent and energy to the cause of the country's unification for relieving my parents and fellow countrymen in South Korea.

U.S. OUTRAGES UPON PERSONAL RIGHTS

BOO SUNG KYOO

I went to Japan at the age of 13, and in 1946 next year after our country's liberation I returned home to my native place in Cheju Island, South Korea. My old parents were glad to have me return but soon my father's face became clouded.

Why? I could not understand his mind until I witnessed a few days later the inhuman atrocities commi-

tted by the U.S. soldiers and the Syngman Rhee clique.

They threw a cordon round the island and, forbidding the islanders to leave, began to fire at the fishermen on the sea and attack girls.

Moreover, they killed at random innocent islanders who resisted such barbarous atrocities, and set fire to many private houses. The same lot was in store for those who barely

managed to escape to the mainland.

This made me seek a way to return to Japan again, parting with my dear parents and brothers. Soon my wife joined me, coming to Japan along with many of my acquaintances. According to their words, numerous people had fallen prey to the atrocities of the U.S. army and Syngman Rhee clique which became more cruel with each passing day. During the war Cheju Island presented a virtual living hell where people suffered greatly from the plundering and atrocities by the U.S. and "ROK" soldiers who had been driven there by the People's Army. Moreover, many young and middle-aged men were pressganged into the "ROK" army as cannon

fodder for the U.S. imperialists, and those who refused to serve were killed without mercy. U.S. atrocities became more barbarous in the post-war period. They do not regard the

Korean people as human beings, and resorted to every kind of criminal act—killing, robbing, violating women, etc.

The stories told by my wife and

acquaintances made me clench my fists in indignation. I am now determined to fight for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea.

gers, saying, "If you follow her example, you too will meet the same fate."

Owing to the tyranny of the police, it is impossible to hold an ancestral service once a year in South Korea. It is a custom to hold the service after midnight by all relatives gathered at one place but, being forbidden to meet together, each of the relatives must wait at his home until the time arrives when he must go in a hurry to the house where the service is to be held and then back home quickly.

When, think of all this, the result of the U.S. occupation of South Korea, I grit my teeth.

find even enough bark and grass roots to live on.

Also while in Japan, I heard a sad story from one of my neighbours, proprietor of the laundry. His 17-year-old son, Sung Tong Ban, was once engaged in farming in South Korea with his grandfather until they were deprived of their farmland. Then they went to Pusan, where his grandfather died a beggar. Left alone, he dragged on his miserable existence begging food from house to house. Luckily he was picked up by some sailors and, with their help, he came to Japan to join his father.

Though many people are leaving their native villages, they meet with the same conditions everywhere, for the towns and cities of South Korea are flooded with the unemployed.

The Tongdai-moon market in Seoul presents a tragic sight where the unemployed crowd around to get a bowl of rice bran porridge or scraps of waste food left over by the Yankees.

They have nothing to eat, nothing to cover their bodies with. I can picture them dying in starvation

POLICE TYRANNY

PAK JONG CHUL

MY native village is in North Kyungsang Province. During the war my native village and the neighbourhood of some 20 square ri (10 ri 4 kilometres) were ruined by the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique. My elder brother, a tenant farmer, is now lying in bed unable to work as a result of their beating and only my 75-year-old

father is engaged in farming.

Any slight expression of discontent of complaint against the misrule of Syngman Rhee cannot escape punishment by the police. In 1954, the police arrested a village girl who disobeyed their order, dragged her around the street naked and then killed her, and in this savagery they never forgot to intimidate the villa-

FLOOD OF UNEMPLOYED

LI WOL JA

MY two elder sisters and relatives are living in my native place in South Choongchung Province, South Korea. They wrote me in Japan letters now and then, regretting that a letter was a poor conveyance of their thoughts, and each time they complained that, no matter how hard they worked, they had nothing left to feed their children after the harvest due to the forced purchase of rice and heavy taxation.

Unable to get a job and always under cruel suppression, many South Korean people are seeking a secret way to Japan. We usually visited those who had just arrived in Japan to hear the news about our native place and the real situation in South Korea.

Some time before my repatriation, I heard a story from Jung Shi Boon

who hailed from Taegu, South Korea.

He had been a farmer, but being so exploited that he had nothing to live on. Naturally he refused to pay taxes. The police imprisoned him on the charge of disobedience. He escaped from the prison and, together with his mother, wife and daughter came to Japan.

According to him, to get a job in South Korea was as hard as for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.

In Kyungsang Province alone, he told me, jobless people accounted for half of the local population, and peasants were constantly flowing into towns and cities, leaving their native villages due to the cruel exploitation by the government, landlords and usurers. It was difficult to

and cold under bridges or dug-outs, exposed to snowstorms and frosty wind.

Year before last, 821 such unemployed died of starvation on

the streets of Seoul in only 10 months and in the first half of last year 571 met the same fate.

South Korea has literally turned into a land of starvation.

Such being the case, if we had remained in South Korea, not only I but my parents and brothers, too, would have died long ago. How horrible it is to think about!

ROBBERY AND HUNGER

PAK RO KIL

The situation in South Korea is so wretched that even the men connected with the Syngman Rhee's "Korean National Residents Association" call it a hell.

One of my neighbours, an enterpriser, Kim, belonging to the "Korean National Residents Association" said when he was back in Japan after visiting South Korea that South Korea was swarming with thieves.

He intended to stay about a month when making a trip to South Korea. He took with him a good sum of

money. The South Korean police and government officials got wind of it and came to him demanding money under one or another pretext—"pay for the issue of certificates," "customs duties," etc. Some demanded a bribe of him. In a few days, the money was all gone and he came back to Japan empty-handed.

A man connected with our family on the maternal side and one of my wife's relatives got homesick and went to their native villages in South Korea.

They were all disappointed to find that many of their relatives, deprived of farmland, had left the villages in search of a means of livelihood in urban areas, that the relatives remaining in the villages subsisted on grass root and tree bark from early spring and that they were all undernourished. The houses in the villages were all ramshackle and not a shelter could be found, so they made their way to urban areas—Pusan, Masan and other towns—in search of a job. While traipsing about, they were forced to sell off all the belongings for food.

In Pusan, they subsisted on tree roots for some ten days.

After going through many difficulties, they found no recourse but to come back to Japan.

HOMELESS PEOPLE

PAK NAI SUNG

AFTER I left home thirty years ago, leaving my mother and brothers behind, for Japan in the hope of finding a means of livelihood, I wandered practically all over Japan—Osaka, Nagoya, Tokyo, Kobe, Fukushima, etc.—trying my hand at various jobs. One time I was a stoker and then, without job, looking for something to eat in garbage bins.

Eager to live together with the family, after the country's liberation I returned to my native town Taegu of North Kyungsang Province.

At home, mother was earning a bare living doing odd jobs. My brothers were too young to be a

breadwinner.

There was no job to be found in South Korea, so I was obliged to return to Japan empty-handed after using up money.

The miserable sights I saw while roaming about in search of a job are still fresh in my memory. In the cold season, many homeless people, grown-ups and children, were seeking shelter in the waiting-rooms of the railway stations in Seoul and Taejun. The gendarmes and police ruthlessly beat these poor people with clubs and drove them out of the waiting-rooms.

While in Japan I learned from the letters from my home and from men

coming to Japan in search of jobs that many factories in South Korea had been turned into U.S. army storehouses or barracks and that flooding of U.S. commodities had forced in recent years more than 4,000 factories of medium and small scale to close down or reduce operation. My native town was one of the centres of textile industry in South Korea. But 60-70 per cent of the textile mills there, I learned from a friend who came to Japan later, had closed down.

To make conditions still worse, last autumn a typhoon and flood hit the provinces of North and South Kyungsang, rendering many people homeless and washing away a lot of farmland.

Before my eyes floats the miserable picture of my 64-year-old mother going from door to door begging food.

Why I Fled from "ROK" Army

MOON BYUNG WOOK

Former Sergeant, 3rd Company, 23rd Regiment, Training Center No. 2 of Ronsan, South Korean "ROK" Army

It has been only a few weeks since I fled from the South Korean puppet army, and came over to North Korea. To come to North Korea through the strict cordon was literally a matter of life and death. The Military Demarcation Line is dividing our country into north and south, causing the national tragedy. I came to the North across this dead line in a blaze of hatred against the U.S. imperialists.

At the moment I stepped onto the soil of North Korea I felt inexpressible joy. I was warmly received by the people of North Korea.

* * *

As we came on northward from the line, I and other "ROK" army soldiers received heartfelt welcome by the People's Army men. When we took the first meal with them, I was struck by good food. I thought: "Time and again I was told in South Korea

that North Korea remained devastated and the people were barely subsisting on porridge in dugouts. Contrary to this, it was an unexpectedly good meal. I wondered what had happened! Perhaps those who came to North Korea might at first be given special treatment. But similar food kept appearing. I knew that this was usual meal of the Korean People's Army. I felt all the more keenly how false was the propaganda of the U.S. and Syngman Rhee clique.

Even in the remote mountain areas of North Korea electric facilities have been installed and tile-roofed modern houses with white walls were standing in rows. Everything I saw and heard deeply moved me.

A view of my native home in South Korea flashed before my eyes: my gloomy room with no kerosene lamp, let alone electric lamp, and my aging mother who was anxious about daily meals. These were heartbreaking thoughts for me.

Facts and Figures

THE rate between the production of the means of production and that of consumer goods in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was 37.7 and 62.3 in 1953, and the figures were 54.2 and 45.8 in 1957. Compared with the previous year, in 1959 the production of the means of production and that of consumer goods increased by 60 per cent and 44 per cent respectively. And the First Five-Year Plan (1957-61) tasks had been overfulfilled by 15

per cent in the total industrial output value, by the end of 1959, in only three years. As a result the gross industrial output value in 1959 grew 6.1 times that in the pre-war year 1949.

Following the development of heavy industry, light industry has made rapid strides. Particularly the development of the local industry which produces mainly the items for daily use is noticeable. Its total output value in 1959 was 2.2 times that of the previous year, and

over 23 times compared with 1949.

Thus in North Korea, a big change has taken place in industry, qualitatively and quantitatively, during the period of the First Five-Year Plan, eradicating the colonial onesidedness and firmly establishing the foundation for an early realization of the country's industrialization.

But the state of affairs in South Korea under U.S. occupation is quite different.

Today there is no heavy industry to speak of. In 1955, the portion of heavy industry in the whole South



Interview with the former Syngman Rhee's army men who have come over to North Korea. The fifth person from the left is Moon Byung Wook, the author

A few days after I crossed the 38th parallel I had seen and heard many wonderful things. When we saw skilled young workers making large complicated machines in the Pyongyang Railway Factory and high-precision machines in a precision machine factory, we greatly admired them because we had thought that only advanced countries could produce those machines.

One day I and ten or so other "ROK" army soldiers visited the Changjun Middle School in Pyongyang. When we approached the gate of the school pupils came out and gave us an enthusiastic welcome. Deeply moved by their warm reception I asked one boy who looked to be around 8 or 9 years old: "Tell

me why you are so wholeheartedly welcoming us, men who served in the puppet ROK army?" He answered that U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee gang who are madly pursuing a policy of war are to be blamed, not the soldiers. It made me more ashamed of my past life. Even young boys and girls here correctly understood the situation of our country. Though I received higher education in South Korea, I felt that I was lagging behind them.

While watching the shining eyes of those pupils who called us uncles I recalled to mind again the land where under the maltreatment of U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique who were creating antagonism and hostility among the people, instigating the "march north" war, many people were falling into the abyss of poverty and despair with no employment. Today's happy life and hope-filled future in the bosom of our fatherland—the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—gave me inexpressible joy.

I see Korean returnees from Japan who have been maltreated for a long time in foreign land building a happy life in their fatherland. In striking contrast to this, in South Korea I noticed that Syngman Rhee clique were attempting every silly machination to bar the Korean nationals in Japan from returning to their fatherland according to the directives of their masters, U.S. imperialists. Not only that, they are selling South Korean compatriots to the plantation owners of Latin America under the name of "emigration."

When I see the Korean returnees leading a happy new life I remember all the more poignantly my mother, sisters and brothers who are groaning under the misrule of the U.S. imperialists and Syngman

Korean industry was 4 per cent compared with 1936, and the figure decreased to 0.1 in 1958. In particular, the iron and steel industry is beyond description. The Samlwa Iron Works, the only remaining iron works in South Korea, has operated only 6 months during the 14 years since the country's liberation in August 1945.

Before liberation, 85 per cent of the factories of the textile industry were in South Korea. This notwithstanding, the per capita output of cotton fabrics in 1958 was a third that in the pre-liberation days, and

one sixth when compared with North Korea.

All this is due to the U.S. imperialists' colonial enslavement policy.

Now the South Korean economy barely maintains its existence by relying on import. In 1952, 59.3 per cent of necessary manufactured goods in South Korea were imported, almost all of them from the U.S., and the figure grew to 72.8 per cent in 1954. And the plan is to import 95.2 per cent of the necessary goods from the U.S. during the period between July 1959 and the end of 1960.

* * *

IN North Korea irrigation projects have been completed in the main and technical revolution is being successfully carried out. Now 88 per cent of rural villages have electricity. In the plain areas, South Pyongan and South Hwanghai Provinces, 85 per cent of field work will be done by machines and the rest by the animal-drawn machines and implements within one or two years.

The adoption of mechanization in the field work makes it possible

Rhee clique.

North Korea, liberated on the same day, has been transformed into a happy land, whereas South Korea has been turned into a land of tears and despair, a land of death.

In streets of Seoul an army of unemployed and beggars were swarming rummaging through rubbish cans. Everywhere in South Korea the case was much the same. Orphans were roaming about the streets. Though the cry of a poor woman whose belongings had been stolen was heard, no one paid any attention to it. In such atmosphere only drunken Yankees playing masters were staggering around disturbing peace.

A few days before I came to North Korea I went to my native town, Kimpo. It was on New Year's eve. I found my family members were in dire straits, without rice or firewood.

Ro Yung Tai, one of my friends in the same town, and his family of 5 were preparing to set out on the road with no destination in view. He had built a water-mill on the riverside in his native town on which he depended for a living. Last autumn, the flood swept his house and water-mill away, thus robbing him of the means of living.

One day he asked Syngman Rhee's local "government official" to give him a little relief rice because his family was starving to death. "Why did you build your house and water-mill at the riverside? Go away!" That was the only answer he got from the "official." I saw him leave his native place, with no means of living, in the depths of winter. And this is not just an isolated case, but is one out of over

one million flood victims.

When I was in Pusan, I noticed many pitiful sights. In the "ROK" army I became acquainted with Li Choon Woo whose native place was Pusan. Unable to stand such poverty, he hanged himself in his room. His 80-year-old father killed himself, shortly afterwards, cursing the Syngman Rhee's rule. In South Korea such cruel sights are occurring one after another.

The barbarous U.S. armymen are shooting innocent Korean sons and daughters for amusement and violating Korean women. Sometimes I seem to hear the cry of my sisters calling for help as she is chased by U.S. soldiers. I feel I must save them at the earliest possible date. I am deeply moved by the fact that the Korean returnees are enjoying a happy life in the bosom of the fatherland while most of their native places are in South Korea, just as in my case.

The day is not far off when the South Korean parents, brothers and sisters will live in peace under the banner of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In the brief period since I crossed the 38th parallel to the North I have been convinced that all the material foundation for achieving the peaceful unification of the country was laid in North Korea. Convinced that the struggle of the entire Korean people united around the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic, headed by Marshal Kim Il Sung for the peaceful unification of the country will certainly be crowned with victory, I will make every effort to attain this goal.

for the peasants to raise production efficiency with smaller labour power and to introduce more widely the intensive and many-sided farming methods and increase production.

The plan for the year is to use one quarter of the total output of steel for making farm machines and implements. Hence, hundreds of thousands of farm machines including tractors, lorries, machines for levelling soil, weeders, harvesters, and fodder grinders will be newly supplied to the agricultural co-ops this year.

In South Korea, however, agro-technique remains backward. The peasants there depend entirely upon manual labour in doing field work.

Even on the plains of Honam and in the Ryungnam region, 60 per cent of the paddy fields depend upon rain water, because neither irrigation nor river-dyke projects have been carried out. And to make matters worse, the existing irrigation facilities has been devastated.

Most of the farm implements available in South Korea are primitive ones such as hoe and sickle. Even those are not so plentiful in number. According to the official data issued in 1957 by the Syngman Rhee regime, every ten peasant households possess only one improved plough, every five households one traditional plough and one hand-operated weeder.

The number of petroleum motors, water-lifting machines and threshers in 1957 decreased markedly. This means one petroleum motor for 1,100 peasant households, one water-lifting machine for 22,200 households, and one thresher for 277 households.

All this is due to the fact that the colonial, feudal landownership is still maintained and tightened; the U.S. imperialists have requisitioned farm land for military use, destroyed the facilities for farming, and dumped the American surplus agricultural produce in South Korea; and together with their masters, the Syngman Rhee clique are also plundering mercilessly the peasants.

Crayons

HAN CHUL

Today the first group of the returning compatriots from Japan arrived in Pyongyang and tens of thousands of citizens of the city received them at the railway station. And I was also among those welcoming our compatriots.

Sitting alone in my quiet study, after returning from the station, I recalled the impressive scene—the cry of *Manse* (long live) reverberating in the air, the sea of flags, bouquets and tapes, snow-like confetti, faces of the returnees and those welcoming them, radiant with the joy of reunion—some of them embraced each other and some shook hands shedding tears, tears of joy.

You think of your loved ones more on joyous occasions. On such an occasion, I myself, like many of the Korean people, constantly think of my family I left in South Korea.

This time, my heart ached all the more for my dear ones—my old mother and children. Now even the overseas compatriots have come back home but I cannot hear anything from my family living on the same land, not to speak of seeing each other. And I could not suppress the indignation arising in me against the U.S. imperialists who are to blame for this division. Involuntarily my thoughts jumped to the time of war nine years ago.

* * *

It was in February 1951. The war was growing more and more fierce. A group of civilians were walking along a winding mountain path, sinking knee-deep in the snow, headed towards Seoul which had been liberated again by the People's Army. They were those who

had temporarily retreated from Seoul and its nearby villages to the North when the city had fallen into the enemy's hand. I was among them.

It was hard for me to walk, because I had been shot through the leg, but the thought of returning to the liberated Seoul which I had missed so much made me happy. I pictured the reunion with my dear ones and the restoration of the city. However, I could not shake off a feeling of uneasiness because I did not know what to expect. My anxiety grew at the sight of catastrophe wrought by the enemy which came into view along both sides of the road. During the time of their invasion of North Korea, though short it was, the vile beasts wrought untold havoc upon the people. They had killed numberless people and destroyed houses. The tragic sights were simply appalling.

With all this I could easily picture the state of affairs in Seoul. But one is prone to trust to chance luck and console himself. I did not like to think of such thing happening to my loved ones.

The feelings of my fellow-travelers seemed to be the same as mine. As we drew nearer to Seoul, we quickened our pace and fell silent. The snow crunching under our feet was the only sound.

When the outline of Mt. Samgak near Seoul came into view in the distance the night scene of the burning city of Seoul I had once seen flashed across my mind.

* * *

It was on that day when the U.S. troops rushed into the streets of the city. There were fierce battles here and there in the city. Many

citizens helped the People's Army to defend the city. The road that ran to the North overflowed with the columns of refugees. The enemy, artillery concentrated fire at the Miari Pass to kill these non-combatants.

When I reached my house in Sungbookdong at the foot of the Miari Pass, after finishing my duty of carrying ammunition for the People's Army, the enemy shells were exploding here and there in the area. Already numbers of houses were in flames. I rushed into my house, but there was no one in the house. I searched the whole house but in vain.

Not knowing what to do, I ran out of the house, calling loudly my children's names, "Hyun!" "Yung!" I searched madly for them all around the neighbourhood, all the time calling their names. But there was no response. I had no choice but to join the columns of refugees making their way toward the north, hoping to meet them among the crowd. I pushed my way through the crowd looking for them. I had reached the summit of Miari Pass, when tens of enemy fighters were seen rapidly approaching.

Those dirty skunks swooped down spitting bullets at this column of non-combatants with all their machine-guns, and dropping bombs over them. In an instant the road was turned into a scene of bloodshed. At that time I was wounded in the leg.

As far as I know, there is no record of such cruelty of killing en masse innocent people in the history of war. Only the U.S. imperialist aggressors could do that. Curse them! These enemy of mankind will not be able to escape the hate and condemnation



not only of the Korean people but also of all the honest-minded people the world over.

I made a narrow escape. It was in the dusk when I looked down from a near-by hill-side at the city of Seoul wrapped in smoke and flames. With burning hatred in my heart I set out on an enforced, temporary retreat with a few of my friends, not knowing the whereabouts of my wife and children.

* * *

Thus recalling the time of retreat, I crossed again the Miari Pass at midnight. No light could be seen in the whole city. Only the cannon's roar rent the night air. A fierce battle was going on in the distance.

At last I was going back to Seoul, the beloved city where I had left my family, relatives and friends. I cannot explain fully my mingled feelings of joy and anxiety at the time. Involuntarily I heaved a low sigh. I tried to collect myself to meet the stern reality that might be waiting me.

I began to walk slowly toward the block where my house was located. Contrary to my intention I quickened my pace and ran down the path. But the area was quite unfamiliar. Houses in the neighborhood had been burnt, leaving carcasses. I found out with difficulty my house intact. With a ray of hope I walked up to the house, and called, "Hyun!" There was no reply. Were they sleeping? Knocking at the door of the room, I called my wife, "Yubo (Dear)!" But there was no response. I opened the door and struck a match.

The room was in wild disorder. It seemed long deserted. The floor-paper was torn off, the closet was gaping open-mouthed, and the desk was covered with dust and scrap paper. There was a smashed box of crayons among them. It was Hyun's. I gathered all the scattered sticks of crayon and put them carefully into the box which I could

not look at without tears. It reminded me of life in this house with my family—my wife's smile, the children's footsteps, so on. I felt as though my heart would burst, and it became difficult to breathe.

Things were as I had feared they might be. Though I had tried to prepare myself for this, it seemed too cruel for me. I don't know how long I sat there.

It was next day that I heard the fate of my family from a neighbouring woman.

From what she said, I knew that my wife had been killed by the enemy and my children had left the house for their grandmother's in the countryside several hundred ri away from Seoul. She said that my wife had been caught in a drag-net of the "red-hunters" and dragged away to the execution ground under the Samsun Bridge, and my children were kicked down into the nearby ditch by those beasts, but left alive. With no one to rely upon, they had left there for my mother's in the countryside, even the direction of which they had not known.

The Syngman Rhee's followers, dregs of humanity, had ransacked my house. Hearing the story I felt as though I would go mad. I thought of my poor children—nine-year-old Hyun travelling with his two younger brothers, taking one by his hand and with the other on his back, and of my wife who had lost her life without seeing the day of country's unification. How she longed for that day!

I could not go to my native place where my mother lived then, because it was still under the enemy's occupation. But I hope the day when I can embrace them will come soon.

I believe that day will come without fail, because the entire Korean people are devoting all they have to an early realization of the country's peaceful unification, enjoying full support from the entire peace-loving, honest-minded people the world over.

I swear again before the crayon box which I still keep precious that I will do my utmost for the early realization of that day.

FINE ARTS EXHIBITION

An exhibition of Korean paintings, sculptures, graphic drawings and handicraft works was opened at the State Central Gallery in January.

Altogether 68 works were on display. Their principal themes were the revolutionary tradition established by the Korean revolutionaries in the 30's and labour—socialist builders who are called winged horse riders at their jobs in factories, mines, villages and fishing villages.

Among the works on display were also some charming pictures on historical themes, the countryside, flowers, birds, and genre-paintings.

Especially, "Mountain" by Li Suk Ho which depicts the magnificent view of snow-crowned Mt. Baikdoo towering high above the clouds, "On Their Way Home" by Sun Woo Dam, "The Taedong River" by Kim Yong Joon, "The Tale of the Moon" by Li Kun Yung, and "Man-

kyungdai" by An Myung Joon were admired by visitors.

It was noteworthy that the exhibition took in a wider range of Korean paintings, from Indian-ink pictures to coloured ones, whereas only Indian-ink pictures were shown at earlier exhibitions of Korean paintings.

The recent exhibition was a graphic illustration of the efforts of our artists who are devoting their energies to fully bringing out our national peculiarities in paintings, further developing the heritages of our fine arts.



Centenary of Birth of Dr. Zamenhof Marked

Under the auspices of the Korean Society of Esperanto a centenary of the birth of Dr. L. L. Zamenhof who initiated Esperanto was marked on December 15, 1959 in Pyongyang.

Present at the meeting were Vice-Premier Hong Myung Hi, Paik Nam Woon, President of the Academy of Sciences of the D.P.R.K., leading personnel of the Korean Society of Esperanto and various social organizations, scientists, men of literature and artists.

Jozef Dryglas, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Polish People's Republic and other embassy members of various countries in Korea were also invited to the meeting.

Speaking in detail of the career of Dr. L. L. Zamenhof who made great contribution to instilling a humanitarian spirit among nations, Song Bong Wook, Chairman of the Korean Society of Esperanto, spoke on the activities and prospects of the society.

The Congress of Pioneers for Mechanization of Agriculture

On December 17—19 the Congress of Pioneers for Mechanization of Agriculture was held in Pyongyang.

The Congress took up the matter of more further successfully accelerating the mechanization of agriculture, the central task of the 1960 national economic development.

The Congress was attended by

more than 1,000 pioneers for mechanization of agriculture engaged in farm machine stations, farm machine repair or producing shops, water pumping stations, power shops, state farms and stock farms and agricultural co-ops throughout the country.

Premier Kim Il Sung and other Party and government leaders were also present at the Congress. The attendants discussed practical measures for putting our agriculture along modern lines, bringing an all-round upsurge in agricultural production and markedly enhancing people's living by carrying through the decision of the December 1959 Enlarged Plenum of the C.C. of the Workers' Party of Korea. And they resolved to put these measures into practice.

Pyongyang Citizens Welcome "ROK" Army Soldiers

On December 28 a Pyongyang citizens' meeting for welcoming eleven "ROK" army soldiers who escaped from the disgraceful "ROK" army and came to North Korea was held in the Moranbong Theatre. These eleven soldiers including Li Woon Woo, sergeant of 3rd squad, 3rd platoon, 6th company, 2nd battalion, 52nd regiment, 12th division of "ROK" army, were warmly welcomed by Pyongyang citizens.

More than 50 Korean returnees from Japan and Japanese journalists staying in Pyongyang were present at the welcome meeting. After Kim Yong Jin, Vice-Chairman of the Pyongyang City People's Committee, delivered a congratulatory speech at the meeting, prize money was awarded to the "ROK" army soldiers by the decision of the Military Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The meeting was followed by an art performance.

10,000 Tractor Drivers

It is planned this year to supply the countryside with 4,000 tractors to step up the mechanization of agriculture. This calls for more tractor drivers.

In order to meet the increasing demands for tractor drivers the Ministry of Agriculture has already taken measures for training them. About 5,400 youngsters fresh from junior and senior middle schools have been in training since late last year. A large number of discharged soldiers have also been receiving training. They will finish their course soon and will be assigned to the agricultural co-operatives in all parts of the country before this coming May.

At the Sungchun Agricultural Mechanization School and many other tractor drivers training schools attached to farm-machine stations and state farms and stock farms, about 4,700 youth will begin learning how to operate tractors, from February.

From this year the training term which was formerly six months has been extended to one year.

Measures are also being taken at the Ministry of Transport and other ministries concerned to train more lorry drivers for the countryside.

Machine Tools Increasing

Last year in response to the Party's call the movement for multiplying machine tools was unrolled throughout the country in order to strengthen the material and technical base of the machine-building industry.

The factories and enterprises under the Ministry of Machine-building Industry turned out 1,742 machine tools and 751 machines of different types in excess of the state assignments. As a result, the technical equipment of the factories and enterprises under the Ministry has been greatly reinforced.

At the factories and enterprises under the Ministry the output of tractors increased to 434 per cent, lorries to 234 per cent, auto-cranes to 128 per cent and excavators to 126 per cent.

Instruments of Ratification Exchanged

A ceremony was held at the Iraqi Embassy in Moscow on December 28, 1959 for exchanging instruments of ratification relating to the

trade and payments agreement and the agreement on cultural co-operation concluded between Korea and Iraq in Bagdad on July 23, 1959.

The ceremony proceeded in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

At the ceremony a statement was made by Abdul Wahab Mahmoud, Ambassador of Iraq to the U.S.S.R., expressing his gratitude over the fact that the ties between the two countries had been considerably strengthened since the Iraqi revolu-

tion of July 14, 1958, and pointed out that the agreements concluded between the two countries were completely in conformity with the interests of the peoples of both countries.

Then, Pak Duk Hwa, Charge d'Affaires of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the U.S.S.R. made a speech. He said that the two agreements opened up wide prospects for further strengthening the friendship between the two countries.



*Stamps
of Korea*

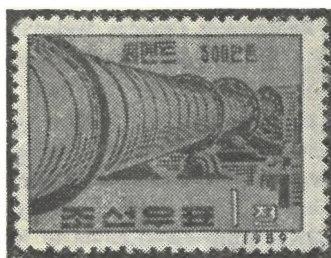
PERSPECTIVE TASKS

We have introduced in our previous issue five stamps out of ten depicting the Korea's perspective tasks in socialist construction. The other five stamps are given below.

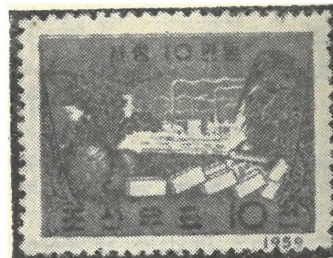
Stamp 1, 10 jun, brown, yellow ochre and dark blue, shows two colliers with a drill in a pit, striving to carry out the target for coal industry—25 million tons, per capita output being 2,500 kilograms.



Stamp 2, 1 jun, earth color, brown and blue, is a picture of a kiln. The figure 5 million tons denotes the perspective task for cement industry. This figure means the per capita output of cement will reach 500 kilograms in the near future.



Stamp 4, 10 jun, green, red and yellow, dedicated to the perspective task for sugar production, shows sugar beet and lump sugar against the background of sugar refineries. The figure 100,000 tons at top is the target to be reached in the near future.



Stamp 3, 10 jun, blue, dedicated to the fishing industry, shows three ships on the sea, on one of which are two fishermen drawing in a net. The figure 2 million tons is the perspective task to be carried out by fishing industry, the per capita output being 200 kg.



Stamp 5, 10 jun, bright-blue, yellow, red and dark-brown, shows co-op farmers thrashing grain with electric threshers. 7 million tons of grain indicates the target to be attained by our co-operativized rural economy in the near future.





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